



Annual Report

2023-2024





At the Refugee-led Research Festival 2024.



The opening panel at the University of Sanctuary Fair, held at Worcester College, featuring Professor Alexander Betts.

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Front cover photo: Fishermen at the shore of Lake Albert in western Uganda.

Credit: Yotam Gidron.

Compiled and designed by Tamsin Kelk and One Ltd.



Street market in Nairobi, Kenya. Credit: Raphael Bradenbrink.



Market stalls in Pagirinya settlement, northern Uganda. Credit: Yotam Gidron.

Director's foreword

At the Refugee Studies Centre over the past year we have seen a number of events that encourage us to look back into our history. The centre's long-running work on the rights of mobile indigenous peoples, led by Professor Dawn Chatty, reached something of a milestone when the Special Rapporteur for Indigenous Rights announced a landmark report at the UN General Assembly in New York. This marks an important moment after 25 years of work by Professor Chatty on this topic, which is detailed on pp. 14-15.

This year also saw the 50th volume of the Berghahn Series in Forced Migration, which I co-edit with former Fellow Professor Kirsten McConnachie. This series began in 1996, and for our 50th book we published a new monograph by Dr Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen, a Fellow at the centre, which is on the timely subject of renewable energy and refugee camps.

Our long-running publication *Forced Migration Review*, which has been print in various forms since the 1980s, also had an important year, launching a new design and website (see p. 30). This is a huge achievement given the complexities of publishing in multiple languages and the sheer number of articles and materials that have now been archived on the site.

On a more sombre note, we were very sad to learn of the passing of the Centre's second director, David Turton, who had a crucial role in shaping the academic research centre we know today. Professor Matthew Gibney offers a heartfelt tribute to his work on pp. 22-23.

In terms of new events and projects, there is a great deal going on at the centre as ever. We are delighted to be joined this year by Dr Julia Schweers, who on the back of her excellent doctorate is now working as a Research Officer on a new project with Professor Alex Betts on refugee protection in authoritarian states. You can read more about this work on page 21, and about Dr Schweers' doctoral research on page 9. Dr Molly Fee, who is completing a postdoctorate at Nuffield College has joined the RSC as one of our research associates and is working on a fascinating new book on resettlement. Emily Arnold-Fernandez has joined the centre as Associate Managing Editor of *Forced Migration Review* and Natasha Treunen continues in

her important role as programme coordinator for the Oxford Sanctuary Community.

This year saw the reinvigoration of our Work in Progress seminar, where researchers across the university come to present their work on forced migration, and the Gil Loescher Fund, founded in honour of our late colleague, also made its first awards. I hope this important new source of funding for original fieldwork will support graduate students across the University for many years to come.

This year we say a fond farewell to Dr Derya Ozkul, who is moving on to the position of Assistant Professor in Sociology at the University of Warwick, and Dr Marie Godin, who has been appointed as Lecturer in Human Geography at the University of Leicester. From the Refugee-led Research Hub we have also said goodbye to two crucial members of staff, whose knowledge and enthusiasm have done so much to get the programme established: Ruth Nyabuto and Martha Hamilton. All four have made such important contributors to the intellectual life of the centre; we thank them enormously for their work and look forward to keeping close contact into the future.



Professor Tom Scott-Smith
Director, Refugee Studies Centre
Associate Professor of Refugee Studies
and Forced Migration

Research

The Refugee Studies Centre undertakes independent, multidisciplinary, academic research on the causes, consequences, and responses to forced migration. Its academic staff have expertise across a range of disciplines, including anthropology, economics, geography, history, law, politics, and international relations. Through their research, members of the Centre challenge common assumptions and understandings related to forced migration, with important implications for public debate, policy, and practice. The Centre's influence relies on an extensive network of relationships with other universities, research institutions, governments, international organisations, NGOs, and businesses.

Humanitarian Shelter

2015–ongoing

Professor Tom Scott-Smith

This research explores emergency housing strategies for refugees. The research began with a project, *Architectures of Displacement*, which was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council between 2016 and 2019. This project brought together experts in forced displacement, archaeology, anthropology, and architecture to study refugee shelter across six countries, and resulted in an edited book published by Berghahn and a feature-length documentary film, which won the AHRC 'Research in Film' award in 2020. The project has yielded several peer-reviewed publications in *American Ethnologist*, the *Journal of Humanitarian Affairs*, and *Humanity*, and a film that was released at festivals across Canada, Norway, New Zealand, Romania, the United Kingdom and the United States. The project has also been involved in two exhibitions, at the Oxford Pitt Rivers Museum and the Imperial War Museum in London, as well as being featured on BBC radio. Outputs from this project have engaged with humanitarians and policymakers through the UK Shelter Forum, a bi-annual event for shelter specialists and architects. The final monograph from the research has now been published: *Fragments of Home: Refugee Housing and the Politics of Shelter* (Stanford University Press, 2024).

Humanitarian Nutrition

2015–ongoing

Professor Tom Scott-Smith

This project examines humanitarian nutrition and its history from the 19th century to the present day. Through archival research, fieldwork, oral history, and

the analysis of humanitarian handbooks, it examines how Victorian technologies such as the soup kitchen were transformed into contemporary mechanisms for emergency feeding. A book capturing the key lessons from this project was published by Cornell University Press in 2020, entitled *On an Empty Stomach: Two Hundred Years of Hunger Relief*, which won the Association for the Study of Food and Society best book award in 2021. A journal article on a prominent humanitarian food product was published in 2018 by *Social Studies of Science*, entitled 'Sticky technologies: Plumpy'nut®, emergency feeding and the viscosity of humanitarian design'. An extension to this project was launched in 2021, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, which concerns the Nobel-prize winning work of Lord John Boyd Orr, first director of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. A short film on Boyd Orr's work has already been completed, entitled *Bread and Statistics*, exploring his attempts to establish a World Food Board in 1946. A political biography is currently in preparation, provisionally entitled, *In Search of Lost Idealism: a life of Lord John Boyd Orr*.

Preserving Refugee Protection in the Era of Externalisation 2.0

2023–ongoing

Professor Catherine Briddick, with Professor Cathryn Costello (University College Dublin)

Scholars have long noted that the refugee regime is a regime of containment, with many barriers in place to prevent refugees from seeking protection in the Global North. Notwithstanding decades of policy failure and legal challenges with mixed results, many states and regions in the Global North, notably the UK and EU, are doubling down on containment practices, and facing renewed legal challenges. We



Bicycle shop in Zaatari refugee camp, Jordan, from the film *Shelter Without Shelter* by Mark E Breeze and Tom Scott-Smith.

characterise this as the era of externalisation 2.0. While earlier scholarship has identified a process of a ‘cat-and-mouse game’ between law and politics, with the norm of non-refoulement preserving protection, scholars now ask whether we have entered an era of ‘demolition’ of the institution of asylum, rather than endogenous contestation.

This project explores the legal and political contestation around externalisation 2.0 and its implications for the global refugee regime, at a critical juncture where containment and externalisation practices are both deeply embedded and attracting renewed political attention. The project treats the post-Brexit United Kingdom as an index case to understand these legal contestations, with particular attention to legal challenges within the UK (noting the diverse constitutional positions of the UK Supreme Court and Northern Irish courts), its neighbours (taking into account litigation in Ireland and France) as well as potential challenges before global and African human rights bodies.

The research builds on previous scholarship of the PIs, examining the principles of non-refoulement, non-discrimination, and non-penalisation in contesting externalisation and containment practices, and on the growing role of global fora (eg,

United Nations Treaty Bodies) to challenge these practices.

The Liberal State and the Expulsion of Members: Banishment, Denationalisation and Deportation

2008–ongoing

Professor Matthew J Gibney

The lawful power to expel people considered criminal, dangerous, or otherwise undesirable has been a feature of virtually all human communities. This project explores the various incarnations that expulsion power takes in modern liberal states and the issues it raises for communities ostensibly committed to principles of freedom, equality, and human rights. The main foci of analysis in the project are: the history of banishment as a precursor of modern deportation power; denationalisation and the evolution of powers to strip citizenship in liberal states; and the evolution and legitimacy of deportation. In addition to illustrating the ongoing tension between the power to expel and liberal principles, this project attempts to show how new developments in membership and concerns over crime and terrorism in modern states fuel contemporary controversy over expulsion.

The Duties of Refugees

2017–ongoing

Professor Matthew J Gibney

This project examines the contentious but highly important issue of the duties of refugees. Refugees and asylum seekers are often criticised in public debates for failing in their moral responsibilities. They have recently been admonished for failing to integrate; for not claiming asylum in the first state they come to; for ‘queue jumping’ or failing to ‘wait their turn’ to be resettled; and for not returning home once they no longer need asylum. However dubious these criticisms may be, there is little doubt that they have played an important part in legitimising recent erosions of the rights of refugees. A key question thus emerges: just what are the duties of refugees as refugees? In this project, the role of refugees as duty holders in relation to a number of different groups will be considered.

The research will draw upon the resources of ethical theory, political science, history, and law. First, it will interrogate critically the duties ascribed to refugees in current political debates. Second, it will trace the different ways in which the duties of refugees have been understood historically and the way they relate to changing conceptualisations of the refugee. Third, through interviews, the question of how refugees themselves understand their responsibilities will be explored. Finally, the project will draw upon the results of the above, as well as the resources of contemporary moral and political thinking, to provide a considered and practically relevant account of the moral and political duties of refugees. The latest research output is ‘Must Refugees Be Grateful?’ (with Rebecca Buxton), *Political Studies*, 2024.

Journeys in Displacement: The Role of Education and Hope in the Lives of Young People

Pedro Arrupe Research Fellowship, 2022–2025

Dr Hiba Salem

The role of education in contexts of displacement remains contested and is often limited to short-term needs. My research, however, examines how education plays a significant role in the evolving journeys of children and young people, and the multi-directional trajectories that they experience across time. Through storytelling interviews with displaced young people from Syria and Palestine, my research examines how individuals link educational aspirations with hope, and its role in protecting a

sense of self in prolonged uncertainty. The findings examine how educational aspirations are central to the movement of individuals and development of selves across varying stages of time and place, including in internal displacement in Gaza, in protracted displacement in Lebanon and Jordan, and as a driver for young people who migrate onwards to Europe, the US, and Canada through both unsafe routes and official resettlement schemes. In this study, young people’s stories speak to the ways in which their efforts and desire to access to learning and skill-development remained the only constant within uncertain and painful journeys in displacement. Through a comparative and longitudinal lens, this findings of this project build insight into how the field of education in contexts of displacement, including its practices and policies, must recognise the importance of trajectories and journeys and individuals’ needs to protect their self and hope across time.

Refugee Children as a Site of Critical Intervention

The Leverhulme Trust, 2022–2025

Dr Ashwiny O Kistnareddy

This Leverhulme Trust-funded project focuses on the experiences of refugee children from a range of geographical spaces: North Korea, Vietnam, Latin America, Rwanda, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. The focus is on those who have sought asylum either in neighbouring countries or in the UK, Europe, or the USA. Through an analysis of a range of media, including memoirs, autobiographical narratives, YouTube videos, blogs written by refugee children and documentaries focusing on refugee children, I engage with the particularities of the child as a refugee, which is an understudied dimension of refugee studies. I also include the stories of children I met in Calais during a recent trip to understand their experiences of transitory spaces and how human rights organisations come to their aid. By doing this, I underline the importance of attending to the specific circumstances of being a child refugee, the provisions that are in place (or the lack thereof) and how this might affect individuals in the longer term. Ultimately, this project offers a critical analysis of what refugee children’s experiences enable us to understand about the impact of forced migration, mobility, and integration (or the absence thereof) on children.



Artwork by refugee children.
Credit: Ashwiny Kistnareddy

Resettled Refugee Children: EAL and other Provisions and Policy Making

OPEN Seed Fund, 2023-2024

Dr Ashwiny O Kistnareddy

There has been a marked increase in the number of refugee, immigrant, and asylum-seeking children arriving in regions in the UK which have no previous experience of dealing with the issues presented by these arrivals, particularly in terms of English as Additional Language (EAL) and well-being provisions. The children come through different routes and the support level they are offered depends on the route (e.g. those coming through the Homes for Ukraine or Hong Kong BNO or Afghan resettlement schemes are supported in different ways compared to those arriving from Eritrea or Sudan). Whether children are accompanied or unaccompanied also creates different categories and responsibilities for stakeholders. Often there is a lack of EAL provision, so that outside stakeholders are brought in to provide these lessons. Currently, Jacari provides one-to-one tutoring, in school and outside, to EAL pupils in Bristol and Oxford, and Positive Youth Foundation does the same in Coventry. In all three cities different strategies and tools are deployed depending on the level of funding available to the charities. This project seeks to identify, examine, develop, and disseminate strategies and best practice through observations, interviews, and analyses of current provisions in EAL and

wellbeing for refugee, immigrant, and asylum-seeking children in Coventry, Bristol, and Oxford. Workshops aim at developing and exchanging knowledge and best practice to improve children's integration. This project will form the basis of a longer-term project at national level providing consistency and working towards better inclusive practices.

Newly-Arrived Children: EAL and Other Provisions Project

Open Public Policy Challenge Fund and John Fell Fund, 2023-2025

Dr Ashwiny O Kistnareddy

The Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) team at the UK's Department for Education (DfE) has noted that the increase in the number of UASC arriving in the country over the last couple of years has created a particular challenge for the team: the mandatory National Transfer Scheme has meant that UASC are increasingly less concentrated geographically. Indeed, one of the questions that the team is concerned with is how can refugee children (including UASC) be effectively enabled to access English as Additional Language (EAL)/English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision (including post 16) and other cultural supports in this context recognising that some will be placed in less culturally diverse and geographically rural settings? The UASC team is keen to explore remote access as an option. Through

observations, interviews, data capture, and the collation of resources from organisations that have developed best practice, this project seeks to pool together the resources gleaned from a range of stakeholders within the UK to build a virtual hub, enabling remote access to resources for newly arrived children in different parts of the UK, as well as for the teachers and practitioners who work with them.

During the project term, four workshops will be organised to monitor and evaluate progress, and ensure that we are meeting the aims and objectives of the project. Ultimately, the project will identify and bring together best practice and resources to be uploaded to an app and set up an accessible space. It will involve young people from the different organisations partnered with us testing the app from the beginning to improve its effectiveness. This will enable us to gauge the possibility of remote access to resources for minors who are sent to regions where resources are scarce as set out by the UASC team at the DfE.

Leaving and Returning in a Post-Partition World

2023-ongoing

Dr Uttara Shahani

Historians of post-World War II partitions have chiefly understood them as involving the mass movement of people across international borders and in terms of their conditions of reception. Different states also experimented with preventing people from leaving and returning in the post-World War II world. Drawing on initial research on the South Asia partition in 1947 and subsequent no-exit policies, this research investigates the prevention of exit and the prevention of return evident in partitioned polities in addition to South Asia, where mass migrations occurred, such as Palestine and Vietnam. The aim is to examine no-exit and no-return schemes in parallel as part of a larger transnational history of immobility. The next phase of this research will interrogate whether no-exit regimes that emerged in the 1940s provide some historical antecedents for modern interception schemes that aim to halt refugees and migrants from leaving, such as those implemented by the EU and Libya; how far restrictions on the right to leave have evolved; their part in the global refugee regime; and their relationship with the right to claim asylum. The research is interdisciplinary and draws on history, political theory, and law.

Caste, Partition and the Prevention of Exit

2023-ongoing

Dr Uttara Shahani

After the Indian partition, India and Pakistan put in place permit systems to stem refugee entry and prevent the return of evacuees. However, the prevention of exit became, alongside non-entrée and the prevention of return, part of an official strategy of immobility in South Asia directed at marginalised castes. This research looks at how Pakistan saw the labour of 'non-Muslim' marginalised castes as essential to its national wealth and believed it had to retain them at all costs. The research also investigates the Indian government's laggardly and often indifferent response to the struggles of caste-oppressed groups trying to migrate to India. The research builds on scholarship on immobility and 'partial citizenship' in the aftermath of partition to show how, with the prevention of exit, partial citizenship incorporated an imposed nationalisation that embodied the status of marginalised castes as 'more than a minority' and produced a form of bonded citizenship.

Anthropology of Good: Exploring Volunteerism in the 2015 European Refugee Crisis

British Academy, 2024-2025

Emerita Professor Dawn Chatty

This study sets out to examine the impulses which led so many to volunteer their time and energy to welcome and make Syrians feel 'at home' upon arrival in the United Kingdom and Sweden during the 2015 European refugee crisis. Rather than focus on the suffering of Syrians seeking safety, it interrogates the motivations which drove so many citizens and residents to step forward and be generous to those in need. In the UK there was little media sympathy for such hospitality, whereas in Sweden the media was generally very supportive. These two study sites offer an opportunity to study volunteering to come to the aid of Syrians in both a relatively hostile policy environment and a sympathetic one.

It is this spirit of being hospitable, of being generous, both among nationals and refugees in the United Kingdom and Sweden that this project seeks to understand. It follows on from my previous research exploring 'the duty to be generous' in the Arab world.

Citizenship abroad, capital at home: how global inequalities affect the value of dual citizenship

Julia Schweers
Research Officer

Amid rising global inequalities, Julia Schweers' DPhil thesis examined how dual citizenship can boost migrants' socio-economic position.

The world is marked by extreme levels of inequality between countries. Former lead economist of the World Bank research department, Branko Milanović, demonstrated in 2019 that inequality between countries today is far greater than internal inequality within any country in the world. To give an example of the scale of today's global inequalities, the average income of a citizen of the DRC, one of the world's poorest countries, is 93 times lower than the average income of a citizen of the world's richest country, the US. Where we are born and what citizenship we hold thus plays an enormous part in determining our socio-economic potential.

My doctoral research investigated the socio-economic inequalities linked to citizenship and started from a puzzle. We know that acquiring second citizenship in the Global North has tangible benefits, particularly for immigrants from the Global South. One way in which people can overcome citizenship-based inequality is to migrate and subsequently acquire citizenship in a country of the Global North. Yet, we also know that migration is not a one-way street as many people voluntarily return. This raises the question whether, and in what ways, Northern citizenship also has practical benefits for life back in the Global South after return. If acquired citizenship is such a socio-economic determinant for those living in Global North countries, I conjectured that these benefits could also be portable to the Global South when dual citizens return. And if that is the case, it could also be that these benefits play a role in how states of the Global South value dual citizenship as a matter of policy.

Drawing on interviews with return migrants as well as legislative documents and parliamentary debates in my case country, Ghana, I show that, as predicted, Northern citizenship does not lose its socio-economic relevance when people return to their country of origin in the Global South. My research showed that, firstly, most returnees saw dual citizenship as a form of capital that helped them to successfully re-establish themselves after their return. They valued dual citizenship as a form of economic capital that helped them find jobs and start

businesses in their country of origin; a social capital that helped them tap into networks that other locals did not have access to; and a cultural capital that facilitated the import of luxury goods through the travel rights of the second, Northern citizenship. Secondly, my research showed that Ghanaian lawmakers did indeed anticipate these benefits of dual citizenship for return migrants when they introduced dual citizenship legislation.

These findings suggest that the socio-economic impact of naturalisation in the Global North is much greater than previously thought. At the same time, they underscore that dual citizenship policies are a viable strategy for Global South countries to attract returnees.

[Julia Schweers is a postdoctoral researcher at the RSC's Refugee Economies Programme where she studies refugee politics in authoritarian states. In December 2023, she submitted her DPhil thesis in Migration Studies, entitled 'Citizenship Abroad, Capital at Home: How Global Inequalities Affect the Value of Dual Citizenship'.](#)



Refugee Economies Programme

IKEA Foundation, John Fell Fund

Professor Alexander Betts, Professor Naohiko Omata, Professor Olivier Sterck, Dr Yotam Gidron, Dr Julia Schweers, Madison Bakewell, Vittorio Bruni

The Refugee Economies Programme undertakes research on the economic lives and positive contributions of refugees. Our research is mainly focused on East Africa, and since 2016 we have published and disseminated research that has had a significant impact on policy and practice. We aim to support the socio-economic inclusion of refugees by highlighting the conditions under which refugees can become self-sufficient and achieve better welfare outcomes. Having undertaken large-scale data collection, following refugees and host community members' economic lives over time, the Programme has evolved to currently focus on three main sub-projects: 1) cross-border economies; 2) the impact of shocks on refugees' economic lives; and 3) the political economy of refugees' access to socio-economic rights. All three strands of research have a focus on East Africa, and aim to collect original data as a means to influence policy and practice.

First, the **Borders, Mobility, and Livelihoods** project involves research undertaken by Naohiko Omata and Yotam Gidron. The project focuses on the following border regions: Uganda-South Sudan, Uganda-Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda-DRC, and Rwanda-Burundi. We have collected qualitative data in Uganda (the Kyangwali and Pagirinya settlements), South Sudan (Juba), DRC (Goma), Rwanda (Kigali, and the Mahama and Kigeme refugee camps), and Burundi (Bujumbura). The aim of the research is to identify the patterns and drivers of mobilities, and how these movements shape refugees' livelihood strategies, opportunities for self-reliance, and socio-economic outcomes. In addition to these activities, we ran a small-scale survey in Kyangwali and Pagirinya to capture the mobility practices of refugees currently living in these settlements to help quantify some of the practices we identified in our qualitative research, as well as highlight the differences between nationalities and genders. Forthcoming articles include: 'Returning to Remain Refugees: Dispersal and Survival Between Uganda and South Sudan' (*Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, Naohiko Omata and Yotam Gidron); and 'Survivalist Mobilities: Freedom of Movement and the

Economic Lives of Settlement Refugees in Uganda' (*Journal of Refugee Studies*, Yotam Gidron).

Second, the **Shocks, Vulnerability, and Livelihoods** project involves research led by Olivier Sterck, and has focused on exploring the role that unanticipated 'shocks' such as changes in food assistance levels, theft, and unemployment have on economic outcomes and behaviour. The research focuses on Kakuma and Kalobeyi in Kenya and involved undertaking surveys with the same 622 refugee households at monthly intervals for one year. In October 2023, we returned to Kakuma to undertake the final, qualitative phase of data collection. At the beginning of this phases, we trained 18 enumerators, all of them refugees who live in either Kalobeyi or Kakuma. The one-off interviews were used to better understand trends identified in early analysis of the quantitative material. Findings have been published in *Refugee Debt and Livelihoods in Northern Kenya*, available on our website, which explores how debt is used as a coping strategy by refugees living in Kakuma and Kalobeyi and concludes that, to be effective, policy solutions should try to simultaneously reduce the prevalence and levels of debt, address the causes of indebtedness, and mitigate the negative consequences of debt.

Third, the project involves research undertaken by Alexander Betts and Julia Schweers. It draws upon a combination of archival research and semi-structured interviews to explore the **political history of refugee rights** – and particularly socio-economic rights – in six main East African states: Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, and Sudan. Over the last year, considerable primary research has been undertaken at United Nations archives (UNHCR and ILO) and at national archives across East Africa, complemented by elite interviews. One of the methodologically original features of the research has been collaboration with historical research assistants with displacement backgrounds within the focus countries. The research has also featured archival research in relevant refugee camps and settlements. The main research outputs seek to offer a historical account of changes in socio-economic rights across the six countries, and to explain

the politics underlying such policies. The work will culminate in a book, provisionally entitled *Authoritarian Sanctuaries: How Illiberal Governments Forge Liberal Refugee Policies*, reflecting on the mechanisms through which authoritarian states sometimes adopt inclusive refugee policies (see the feature on p. 21).

In addition, the Programme has developed a new public engagement project called **Refugee Stories**, with additional funding from the OUP John Fell Fund, and partly in collaboration with the Gapminder Foundation. Refugee Stories aims to develop an innovative approach to ‘representative story-telling’. It does so through a novel approach to integrating qualitative and quantitative data. Normally when we hear stories about refugees they are de-contextualised, and we have no idea whether they are representative or not. We collected representative survey data from across the Kakuma population. We then ordered the surveyed households by income, enabling us to approach households at particular percentiles – 10th, 20th, 90th etc. – to get a representative window into life in the camps. Using a refugee film crew, we then interviewed key household members to get an

understanding of their lives, and enable viewers to understand how those stories relate to the wider context and population. The project will result in both a short documentary film and a book.

The Programme has also published outputs relating to the Refugee Economies Dataset, now available online. This dataset combines household survey data from Kenya (the Kakuma refugee camp and Nairobi), Uganda (the Nakivale refugee settlement and Kampala), and Ethiopia (the Dollo Ado refugee camps and Addis Ababa) and was published alongside our article in *World Development* entitled ‘The Economic Lives of Refugees’ which explores the economic lives of refugees in Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia. A book is also planned entitled *The Refugee Trap*, exploring the mechanism through which becoming a refugee changes people’s economic outcomes, and the policies needed to overcome that impact.

Publications are available on the RSC website and on the project website: www.refugee-economies.org.



World Food Programme (WFP)-supported integrative farming in Kalobeyei settlement, Kenya. Credit: Raphael Bradenbrink.

Policy and impact

A key aim of the Refugee Studies Centre is to ensure that our work has a meaningful impact beyond the academic community. We achieve this by combining our independent, objective, and critical scholarship with an active role in engaging policymakers in governments, intergovernmental agencies, and non-governmental organisations, shaping public understanding through the media, and working directly with refugees.

This year, **Professor Alexander Betts** attended the World Economic Forum in Davos, and presented work on various panels including ‘Diplomacy Dialogue on Myanmar: Preventing a Lost Decade’ and ‘Saving Ukrainians Saves Ukraine: Human Capital, War, and the War Economy’. On the panel ‘35.3m Refugees at a Critical Junction’, he presented some of the initial work of the new ‘Refugee Stories’ project. He also moderated a meeting of the WEF’s Refugee Employment Alliance.

Professor Betts also took part in the 4th Celebration of Colleges of Sanctuary: ‘Creating a Community’, held at Mansfield College, Oxford. This event celebrated Oxford University becoming a University of Sanctuary. Speakers from Mansfield College and Somerville College, including Sanctuary Scholars and Kate Clanchy of Sanctuary Poetry, discussed how to reframe narratives around refugees and create a community that celebrates inclusion.

The report of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Siobhán

Mullally (advance unedited version) ‘Refugee Protection, Internal Displacement and Statelessness’ (UN doc A/HRC/53/28, 3 July 2023) develops and cites arguments on gender-based violence and political opinions made in ‘Human Trafficking and Refugees’ by **Professor Catherine Briddick** and Vladislava Stoyanova in the *Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law* (2021).

Altmetric (which tracks where published research is mentioned online) has ranked the article ‘Offshoring Refugees: Colonial Echoes of the UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership’, authored by Professor Michael Collyer (Sussex) and **Dr Uttara Shahani** in the top 5% of all research outputs for the past year.

Dr Ashwiny Kistnareddy wrote a report for the UK’s Department for Education (DfE) on ‘Newly Arrived Children: Current resources, challenges and moving forward’ in August. Her project in partnership with the DfE, ‘Newly Arrived Children: EAL and Other Provisions’, seeks to explore the opportunity for

UN Special Rapporteur takes up Dana+20 Manifesto

Professor Dawn Chatty chaired the Standing Committee of the Dana Declaration from 2002 until 2021 when **Dr Ariell Ahearn** (SoGE) joined her as co-Chair. This year the Dana +20 Manifesto, issued after the Dana+20 workshop in Wadi Dana in September 2022, reached the attention of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR). The Special Rapporteur decided that his report to the UNGA in October 2024 would address the human rights of Mobile Peoples and he asked if the Dana Standing Committee would cooperate with his team in the preparation of his report. To that end, the Standing Committee held two global virtual consultations with Mobile Peoples from more than 40 countries, and in April 2024, the Committee held a side event at the United Nations Forum on Indigenous Issues. The Special Rapporteur will present his report on the human rights of mobile peoples to the United Nations General Assembly on 15 October 2024. (See the longer feature on pp. 14-15).

On the UK-Rwanda Agreement

The House of Lords International Agreements Committee 4th Report - Scrutiny of international agreements: UK-Rwanda Agreement on an Asylum Partnership (HL Paper 43, 17 January 2024) drew on written evidence submitted by Professor Catherine Briddick with Professor Cathryn Costello (Trinity College Dublin) to recommend non-ratification of the UK-Rwanda Agreement. Their evidence stated: 'The use of an international treaty does not mean that Rwanda is a safe country. International law requires that the assessment of safety is an empirical matter, not a purely legal one. Although concluding an international treaty may make it more likely that the provisions of the agreement will be respected, that cannot be assumed.'

In the media, Professor Alexander Betts spoke to the 'i' newspaper about the UK Supreme Court's ruling on the UK government's 'Rwanda Plan', stating: 'In practice, it's almost impossible to conceive of a way to design a version of the Rwanda policy that would be made compatible with our human rights obligations.'

remote access for these young people to support them in regions that are under-resourced and underfunded, and also in cases where minors are waiting for long periods before being granted asylum.

The **Refugee-Led Research Hub** (RLRH) coordinated a delegation of 21 students and researchers to attend the UNHCR's flagship Global Refugee Forum in Geneva, Switzerland, in December. RLRH contributed to four critical pledges focusing on refugee leadership and access to education, research pathways, and economic opportunities. RLRH is a co-lead on the multi-stakeholder pledge '15% by 2030: Global pledge

on refugee higher education and self-reliance'. They are also members of pledges, including the multi-stakeholder pledge on 'Shifting Power: Advancing Localization of Research and Elevating the Voices of Host and Forcibly Displaced Communities Globally', the Refugee Self Reliance Initiative's 'Economic Inclusion and Social Protection', and the Global Refugee-led Network's 'Refugee Participation'. RLRH's key programmatic objectives and achievements across their Academic, Research, and Livelihoods Pillars are aligned with and inherently contribute to these pledges.



Alexander Betts presents at the World Economic Forum in January 2024. Credit: World Economic Forum.

25 years of support for Mobile Peoples' rights not to be dispossessed and displaced

Dawn Chatty

Emerita Professor of Anthropology and Forced Migration

Mobile Indigenous Peoples – pastoralists, swidden farmers, and foragers – have sustainably managed the lands they lived on for centuries. However, throughout the modern era and especially in recent decades, many have been displaced, dispossessed, and expelled from their traditional territories, forced to settle, and prevented from practising the forms of mobility upon which their livelihoods and social systems are based. These restrictions have left many destitute and disrupted the cultural foundations of mobile peoples' identities.

As early as 1998 the Refugee Studies Centre undertook to systematically study the disruption to Mobile Peoples' lives and livelihoods which has resulted from modern wildlife conservation and environmental protection efforts. The Earth Summit of 1992 urged that at least 10% of the earth's surface be protected. And each year hundreds of thousands of mobile peoples located on these lands were forced into permanent settlement in order to set aside land for the conservation of wildlife.

Recognising the global dimensions of this collision between protecting the biodiversity of our planet and the sustainable livelihoods of mobile communities around the world, the RSC organised a conference which brought together social and natural scientists – anthropologists, ecologists, and wildlife conservation specialists – to examine the impact of conservation and environmental protection projects on the lives of the peoples who inhabited the same territories. In September 1999, the RSC hosted a conference on 'Displacement, Forced Settlement, and Conservation'. The proceedings of the conference appeared in the publication *Conservation and Mobile Indigenous Peoples: Displacement, Forced Settlement, and Sustainable Development* (Chatty and Colchester (eds), 2002, Berghahn; second edition 2024).

A significant outcome of the 1999 conference was the demand that alongside the academic publication there needed to be effective advocacy for the rights of Mobile Peoples. While the aim of settling Mobile Peoples was no longer explicit in the rhetoric of conservation and development, practical steps toward land restitution and mobility rights had not been forthcoming. Policy had not kept pace with advances in thinking about the relationship between Mobile Peoples, the state, and territory. Nor

did states and international actors often live up to public declarations of concern for the human rights of Mobile Peoples. Mobile Peoples, even as rights-holders, continued to be marginalised in policy and practice.

The RSC decided to hold a major conference in Wadi Dana, Jordan, an area where Mobile Peoples had been dispossessed for conservation, and to bring together social and natural scientists, conservationists, and policymakers in major environmental agencies to set out a declaration advocating for the rights of Mobile Peoples. Over five intense days in 2002, 30 delegates representing academia, the practitioner world, and international agencies thrashed out a declaration, the Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation (www.danadeclaration.org), which provided guidelines for a synergistic strategy for both environmental protection and meeting the human rights and needs of Mobile Peoples. A Standing Committee was set up to work with international bodies to address the concerns regarding the welfare of Mobile Indigenous Peoples in sustainable development in general, and in biodiversity conservation in particular.

In 2012 the Standing Committee held a Dana+10 Workshop in Wadi Dana, which followed up on the previous 10 years of work to embed the Dana Declaration into soft international policy and law. This time academics and practitioners were joined by representatives of mobile peoples. Capacity building among Mobile Indigenous Peoples, as rights-holders, was at the core of the workshop's aims. One outcome of the workshop was a statement delivered by the Mobile Peoples' elected representatives to the Earth Summit (Rio+20) meetings in June 2012. This statement called for the human rights of Mobile

Indigenous Peoples to be addressed – in the face of continuing expulsions from nature reserves and extractive industry land grabbing, and other forms of territorial and resource dispossession.

Ten years later, in 2022, the Standing Committee for the Declaration held a Dana+20 Workshop in Wadi Dana, to take stock of ecological, technical, and political developments over the past two decades and to bring their implications for Mobile Peoples to the attention of global forums. The Dana+20 workshop reaffirmed, redirected, and re-examined the principles of the Dana Declaration and examined the stubborn biases that continue to influence mainstream sustainability, climate change, and development paradigms. The participants expressed dismay at the significant climate change impacts on their home environments alongside the increasing enclosure and commercialisation of land for the private benefits of mineral, agricultural, and renewable energy industries. They identified the lack of genuine engagement with their communities by state officials, private actors, and scientists, and offered pathways for improved information exchange and collaboration.

The workshop participants drafted a manifesto addressing their priorities and concerns and outlining ways forward to improve engagement on the interrelated priorities of self-determination, conservation, climate adaptation/resilience, habitat loss, and sustainable development. The Dana+20 Manifesto has been translated into 12 languages and

is available at <https://www.danadeclaration.org/dana-20-manifesto>.

In 2023, the Special Rapporteur for Indigenous Rights (SRIP) of the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights became aware of the Dana+20 Manifesto and reached out to the Standing Committee. He decided that his report to the United Nations General Assembly in October 2024 would address the human rights of Mobile Peoples and he asked the Dana Standing Committee to cooperate with his team in the preparation of his report. To that end, the Standing Committee, which by this time included a representative from the Oxford School of Geography and the Environment, held two global virtual consultations with Mobile Peoples from more than 40 countries. In April 2024, the Dana Standing Committee held a side event at the United Nations Forum on Indigenous Issues. With the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), the UNDP and the SRIP's team, a delegation of Mobile Peoples from Mongolia, Tanzania, Peru, and Sweden spoke eloquently about their fears, concerns, and hopes for the future.

The SRIP will present his report on the human rights of Mobile Peoples to the United Nations General Assembly on 15 October 2024. I shall attend and continue the RSC's advocacy for the rights of Mobile Peoples in the face of continuing challenges from conservation, extractive industry, and now also Green Hydrogen (solar panel fields and wind farms).



Group photo of Mobile Peoples delegates and participants with HRH Princess Basma bint Talal at the Dana+20 workshop in Wadi Dana, September 2022. Credit: Dana+20.

Studying and learning

The RSC offers teaching programmes that are academically rigorous and multidisciplinary, attracting outstanding students and practitioners from around the world. Our degree and non-degree courses have two distinct aims: to further academic understanding of forced migration by training future researchers and teachers; and to cultivate the ‘reflective practitioner’ by enabling professionals who work in the field of forced migration to engage with key debates and to situate displacement in a broad historical and international context.

Master of Science in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

This interdisciplinary nine-month master’s degree offers an intellectually demanding route to understanding forced migration in contexts of conflict, repression, natural disasters, environmental change, and development. It places forced migration in an historical, global and human perspective, and encourages informed reflection on international and national responses to both cross-border and internal displacement.

Taught by leading experts in the field of forced migration drawn from a range of disciplines including anthropology, history, international law, politics, international relations, and sociology, students on the degree benefit from Oxford’s exceptional academic environment and teaching tradition, featuring individual supervision by world-class scholars as well as small-group teaching. They explore forced migration through a thesis, a research methods essay, assessed essays, and written exams.

MSc teaching usually takes place in small classes to encourage active participation and to enable students to learn from each other. Teaching styles vary, and involve lectures, workshops, seminars, and student presentations. The programme’s academic content is complemented by a range of extra-curricular activities, including object-handling sessions at the Ashmolean, a trip to the National Archives at Kew, and a film series.

In the first term, students follow three core courses, which introduce the subject of forced migration from anthropological, political, and legal perspectives. In the second term they follow a fourth core course on moral philosophy, and across both terms all students take a course dedicated to research methods in the study of

forced migration.

In the second term, students also choose two option courses from a list, which changes from year to year. In 2023-24, our option courses included Refugee Economies, Postcolonial Borders and Forced Migration, Climate Action and Displacement, Comparative Perspectives of Refugee Resettlement, Education in Uncertainty and an advanced law option that explored current issues in International Human Rights and Refugee Law. In the final term, students write a 10,000 to 15,000-word thesis based on research conducted over the year.

The students

Since 1998 the MSc has drawn outstanding students from all over the world, including Rhodes, Marshall, Commonwealth, and Fulbright scholars. Students come from a range of countries, with many in receipt of bursary or other financial support. The degree is competitive, with over 250 applicants for the 25 places available on the course each year.

Over 500 students have graduated and gone on to doctoral degrees, law school, and/or work relevant to human rights, refugees, and migration. Graduates are employed in organisations such as UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration, UNDP, Save the Children, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the Brookings and MacArthur foundations, as well as national governments and universities around the world.

For further information on the master’s degree, please see the RSC website at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/msc.

Funding and studentships

Information about support available for study is provided on the website of the Oxford Department of International Development. Various awards are available for students. For example, the Department offers a number of full scholarships (covering University and college fees, plus an amount towards maintenance), which are available to students on any ODID courses. There is also a range of scholarships for international students, such as Clarendon and Weidenfeld. Find further information at: www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/fees-funding

Doctoral studies

The RSC is a vibrant training ground for young doctoral researchers. The Centre's staff supervise candidates undertaking research degrees at the Oxford Department of International Development and other centres within the University, and provide external supervision to candidates based elsewhere. Students come from various academic disciplines including development studies, politics and international relations, social and cultural anthropology, and geography.

Current topics under investigation include 'Positively Polarized: Can Social Media Push Ambivalent Locals to be More Supportive of Refugees in Turkey?', 'Legitimising Migration Control: Italy-Libya Maritime Cooperation', and 'Shepherds in the Shadows: Lebanese Pastoralism in a Context of Eco-systemic Crisis' (see the Academic Record for a complete listing of current DPhil theses).

The RSC aims to secure further doctoral research scholarship funds, targeted where possible at students from the Global South. It is also committed to the development of additional postdoctoral opportunities at the Centre.

For further information about DPhil opportunities, visit the RSC website at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/dphil.

Self-assembly Governance: Unpacking the UNHCR-IKEA Foundation Collaboration in Refugee Assistance

Raphael Bradenbrink
DPhil candidate

My thesis examines the collaboration between UNHCR and the IKEA Foundation in the context of refugee assistance in Ethiopia's Dollo Ado camps. It explores how non-state actors, particularly corporate-related philanthropic organisations, are playing an increasingly influential role in humanitarian governance. By analysing the evolution of this partnership, the research highlights the importance of organisational culture, strategic interests, interpersonal relationships, and broader political environments in shaping these collaborations. Drawing on interviews with key decision-makers, archival research, and interviews with refugees in Dollo Ado, the thesis unpacks how this partnership emerged and developed over a decade. Ultimately, it shows how such partnerships evolve through a learning process, contributing to a new understanding of the governance structures in humanitarian aid.

This is just one example of current DPhil theses. See pp. 40-41 of the Academic Record for a complete list.



Queen Elizabeth House. Credit: David Fisher.

International Online School in Forced Migration

Central to the RSC's calendar is the International Online School in Forced Migration. For the first time, the School was held three times this year, in December 2023 and then March and June 2024.

The School provides an exciting forum for the discussion of contemporary issues in the field and an opportunity for practitioners from around the world to reflect on their work and learn from each other.

The Refugee Studies Centre has always set the highest academic and pedagogic standards in all its research and teaching. The Online School offers a programme of study that is theoretically rigorous, empirically informed, and participatory. Participants have early access to pre-recorded lectures and readings, which are then followed by live online seminars and discussions. The School's engaging academic content is complemented by a range of social and networking opportunities for participants.

The diversity of participants is always crucial in the success of the School. This year, across the three Schools, we welcomed 126 participants from 47 countries, with 16 taking up bursary places for those with personal experience of displacement, courtesy of the RSC. The course directors were Professor Matthew Gibney and Professor Catherine Briddick, who, along with Professor Tom Scott-Smith, also acted as tutors. Guest lecturers and speakers included Professor Fareda Banda (SOAS

University of London), Emerita Professor Dawn Chatty (RSC), Professor Thomas Gammeltoft-Hansen (University of Copenhagen), Dr Madeline Garlick (UNHCR), Sana Ali Mustafa (CEO, Asylum Access), Scientia Professor Jane McAdam AO (Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW Sydney), and Victor Nyamori (Amnesty International/refugee rights lawyer, Kenya).

The Online School offers an intensive, interdisciplinary, and participative approach to the study of forced migration. It enables people working with refugees and other forced migrants to reflect critically on the forces and institutions that dominate the worlds of displaced people. The course combines Oxford's tradition of academic excellence with a stimulating discussion-based method of teaching, learning, and reflection. Subjects covered include: Conceptualising Forced Migration, The Moral Foundations of Refugeehood, International Law and Refugee Protection, and The Politics of Humanitarianism, as well as a choice of optional modules.

Participants on the Online Schools described the Schools as 'well paced, hugely informative, challenging and inspirational', with 'a great tone/environment that made sharing and learning feel easy and fun', and that it 'exceeded my expectations'.

In the 2024-2025 academic year, the Online School will again take place three times, in December, March and June.

Full details are available at
www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/online-school

Short courses

The RSC convenes occasional short courses that offer participants the opportunity to engage actively and critically with contemporary debates under the tutelage of distinguished experts in the field of forced migration. The courses, usually held over a weekend, focus on a particular issue related to forced migration, enabling participants to develop their expertise through a mix of lectures, working group exercises, and interactive sessions. RSC short courses are suitable for experienced practitioners, graduate researchers, parliamentarians and staff, members of the legal profession, government officials, and personnel of intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations.

In March 2024, Professor Dawn Chatty (RSC) and Professor Susan M Akram (Boston University School of Law) convened the course [Palestine Refugees and International Law](#), held at the Council for British Research in the Levant in Amman, Jordan. This two-day course places the Palestinian refugee case study within the broader context of the international human rights regime. It examines how the policies and practices of Middle Eastern states impinge upon Palestinian refugees.

In March 2025, this course will take place in person at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul.

For further information see
www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/short-courses

Visiting Fellowships

Visiting Fellowships provide an excellent opportunity for professional academics, postdoctoral scholars, independent non-academic researchers, and doctoral students to study in a renowned intellectual environment. Visiting Fellows undertake a specific programme of self-directed study or research under the guidance of an assigned academic advisor. Fellows are able to attend the core seminar series of the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, and the RSC's Public Seminar Series. They have full access to the University's academic facilities, including libraries and seminars. The RSC's Library holds the world's largest collection of unpublished literature in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies.

During the past year the RSC has welcomed Visiting Research Fellows and Student Visitors from a variety of countries with a diverse range of experiences and expertise. Through mutual exchange and learning, their presence has greatly enhanced the academic work of the Centre.

Details of this year's Visiting Fellows can be found in the Academic Record; two fellows outline their experiences below.

For further information about the Visiting Fellowship programme, visit www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/visiting-fellowships.

Barbara Moser-Mercer Visiting Research Fellow

Having spent over a decade on research and programme implementation in Higher Education in Emergencies in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Afghanistan, I found that my time as a Visiting Fellow at the Refugee Studies Centre provided the perfect environment and an ideal opportunity for reflecting on the interface between academia and the humanitarian sector. The transition from the daily urgencies of humanitarian action to the calm and quiet of the Social Science Library was as jolting as my previous transition from the cognitive neuroscience laboratory to humanitarian contexts had been. Combing through box after box of the RSC holdings unearthed gems of historical documents about higher education in refugee contexts that afforded me more than a glimpse of how those who had come before me envisioned sustainable tertiary education solutions for forcibly displaced youth. During my time at the RSC the structure and chapter outlines of my book on Higher Education in Emergencies took shape, with our work-in-progress seminars contributing valuable feedback as well as additional research dimensions from RSC professors, students, and other Visiting Research Fellows. As it is nearly impossible to divorce oneself entirely from humanitarian programme implementation, I continue to work on my book and look forward to continued interaction with colleagues at the RSC.



The Radcliffe Camera. Oxford.
Credit: OUIimages/John Cairns Photography.

Natasha Yacoub Visiting Research Fellow

I came to the RSC in Trinity Term 2024. Having worked for the RSC's Founding Director, it was special to return to the vibrant academic setting at Oxford University. A lively exchange with scholars from different disciplines and diverse backgrounds provided important new perspectives on my own research. Visiting from the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at the University of New South Wales, I worked on my doctoral dissertation entitled: 'Voluntary repatriation in international refugee law: a gender-sensitive approach'. My sponsor, Professor Catherine Briddick, was incredibly supportive with her time and valuable feedback on my research. Under her guidance, I finalised a chapter for the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook on Women and International Law* on 'Re-Centring Humanity in International Migration Law: Feminist Care Ethics'. I am honoured to have contributed to this Handbook that I believe contributes to scholarship reigniting feminist approaches to international law. I also co-authored with Madeline Gleeson 'Offshore Processing in Australia' for a series of articles on *Externalising Asylum*. I recommend the Visiting Fellowship not only for the beautiful environment at Queen Elizabeth House but for the rich and deep connections with diverse scholars which will continue after the Fellowship ends.

RSC Library

The Refugee Studies collections are housed in the Bodleian Social Science Library (SSL) where readers gain from the wider social science context within which the specialist forced migration materials sit. These benefits include access to over 250,000 open shelf monographs and c.1,200 print-runs of social science-related journals, as well as the stack request routes between the Bodleian Libraries.

Access to the unique grey literature collection of unpublished and semi-published material is still much appreciated by readers, and although unpublished materials are often now freely available online, the SSL still adds new print documents and newsletter issues to this collection. The SSL also houses several archival collections, including the papers belonging to Dr Paul Weis, an Austrian international human rights lawyer who was involved in the drafting of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. His archive has been consulted by a number of researchers during the past year. In September items from this collection were curated for an SSL exhibition charting the growth of refugee studies for Oxford Preservation Trust Open Doors events.

In addition to the grey literature and archive collections, the specialist book collection also continued to expand, with monograph purchases for both research and teaching purposes. Book acquisitions were further supplemented by donations acquired via the RSC as well as weekly UK-published legal deposit books selected for the SSL.

Readers also benefitted increasingly from electronic book and e-journal acquisitions, a trend accelerated during and

after pandemic library closures. We purchased 84 new e-book titles for the forced migration and international development field this year. There are presently over 435,000 refugee-related electronic articles and books accessible via SOLO of which 79,000 are open access, the latter allowing non-University members full-text access via the catalogue.

The Centre's MSc students continued to profit from Oxford Reading Lists Online (ORLO) this academic year. These are embedded in the Centre's Canvas VLE site, making collections of resources more accessible and relevant to students. Real-time book availability and direct links to electronic books, chapters, and articles is beneficial to their learning environment.

In-person subject-specific library welcomes were provided for MSc students and Visiting Research Fellows this year. In addition, the Subject Consultant also offered tailored one-to-one research sessions, taught a search-skills session for the MSc students, and answered a wide range of email enquiries. Topics included housing-led dispersal policies for asylum seekers in France, and humanitarian response and rescue in mountainous border regions. The online research guide for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies also continued to be a well-used tool for locating electronic and print resources and is available at <https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/refugee-studies>.

Contact Sarah Rhodes (sarah.rhodes@bodleian.ox.ac.uk) to make an appointment for subject-specific research queries or search SOLO for refugee-related material at <https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>. You can also visit the Bodleian Social Science Library website at www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/libraries/ssl.



Social Science Library.
Credit: OUIImages/Ian Wallman.

Authoritarian Sanctuaries: how illiberal governments forge liberal refugee policies

Alexander Betts¹ and Julia Schweers²

¹Leopold Muller Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs and ²Research Officer, Refugee Economies Programme

A new project by the Refugee Economies Programme examines the illiberal politics behind seemingly liberal policies towards refugees in four East African countries.

How do autocrats make refugee politics? And why is it that, sometimes, authoritarian regimes seem to offer more liberal migration policies than democracies? These questions are at the heart of our latest project, Authoritarian Sanctuaries.

Over the last 2.5 years, we have sought to answer these underexplored questions by studying the political history of refugee rights – particularly of socio-economic rights – in four East African states: Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda and Sudan. We have analysed thousands of documents from the archives of the UNHCR and newspaper archives and national archives in the case study countries, as well as carrying out expert interviews.

The project, which is part of the Refugee Economies Programme, funded by the IKEA Foundation, focusses on four autocrats: Ethiopia’s Mengistu Haile Mariam (1977–1991), Uganda’s Idi Amin (1971–1979), Rwanda’s Juvénal Habyarimana (1973–1994), and Sudan’s Gafaar Nimeiry (1969–1985), and compares their policies with

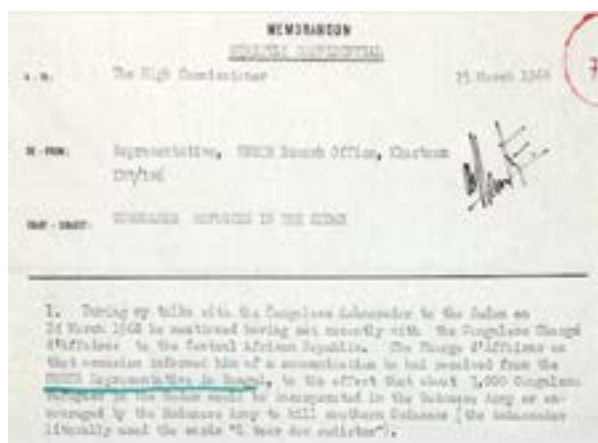
those of previous and subsequent rulers.

It finds that there is a seeming ‘illiberal paradox’¹ at work. This concept has been developed, mainly in the context of labour migration, to highlight that authoritarian regimes can sometimes seem to offer more liberal migration policies because they are not beholden to elections and have greater freedom to adopt inclusive policies.

On the face of it, it certainly looks as if each of the autocrats examined by Authoritarian Sanctuaries implemented astonishingly liberal refugee policies, which granted refugees the right to work, education, and free movement. The UNHCR repeatedly praised the autocrats’ policies as ‘liberal’, highlighting their seemingly welcoming attitude towards refugees.

On closer inspection, however, we found that there are illiberal politics behind these seemingly liberal policies. We found that autocrats are welcoming to refugees because hosting refugees gives them access to the three prerequisites they need most for their political survival: money, followers, and weapons². For example, as autocrats do not have majoritarian support, they are particularly dependent on a small circle of loyal followers – who can be recruited from refugee camps. In terms of weapons, autocrats in the case studies have armed and trained refugees to use against rival neighbouring states. In terms of money, hosting refugees is a means to access international donor funding.

Authoritarian Sanctuaries shows how important it is not to praise autocrats for their liberal policies too hastily. Researchers and policy makers need to engage critically with autocrats’ framing of politics or risk lending legitimacy to illegitimate governments.



Strictly confidential internal UNHCR communication about allegations that the Sudanese government used Congolese refugees to fight against the southern Sudanese independence movement during the First Sudanese Civil War.

1 Katharina Natter (2024) ‘The Illiberal Paradox: Conceptualising Immigration Policy Trade-Offs across the Democracy/Autocracy Divide’, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 50 (3): 683.

2 Oisín Tansey (2016) *International Politics of Authoritarian Rule* (Oxford University Press).

David Turton, RSC Director, 1940-2023

Matthew J Gibney

Elizabeth Colson Professor of Politics and Forced Migration

On Saturday, 9 December 2023, David Turton, the second director of the Refugee Studies Centre, passed away in London at the age of 84. He was mourned both in the UK and internationally as an anthropologist, an influential contributor to the study of forced migration, a pivotal force behind the establishment of the centre for visual anthropology at Manchester University, and a key RSC director of the Refugee Studies Centre.

David became the director the RSC at Oxford in 1996 after a brief period of semi-retirement that came at the end of two decades in the Social Anthropology department at Manchester University. The post of director came with the typical Oxford trappings: a readership, a college affiliation (Green College), and the prestige of association with this ancient institution. But it was a daunting position to take on. David inherited the directorship of the Centre from its founder, Barbara Harrell-Bond, a force of nature whose leadership inspired and intimidated in equal measure.

The RSC (then known as the Refugee Studies Programme) that David was selected to lead in 1996 was very much Barbara's baby and in many ways

reflected her personality. That is to say, it was highly productive, innovative, activist, and somewhat chaotic. The Centre had, in a relatively short period of time, put in place a foundation course, a Summer School, and a Visiting Fellows programme. More than that, it had effectively created Refugee Studies as an academic area of study. But the Centre was really as much an NGO as it was an academic centre and it lacked serious central university funding. For all its influence, the RSC was held together by paper and string and there was always a risk that it would fizzle out once Barbara, its main source of energy, departed the stage.

David's task in 1996, then, was to place the RSC on a sure footing: to give the Centre academic credibility in the eyes of the university establishment; to set up a Masters programme that would recruit quality students and ensure steady income; and to make the Summer School an event characterised by tight organisation and professionalism. At the same time, key funders had to be convinced that all of this could be done without challenging the Centre's founding vision.

It was never going to be easy. And it tells us much about the character of the man that David not only took on this challenging role but made a huge success of it. In four short years David transformed the Centre. The Masters programme he presided over is without doubt the finest of its type in the world today, drawing hundreds of applications each year for its 25 places. The Summer School was successfully reformed and





The website Mursi Online was established by David Turton in 2007. His relationship with the Mursi began in 1968, and he devoted his career to the study of Mursi language, politics, and history. In 2020, the hosting of the site passed to Durham University. In its new incarnation, the site will see expanded coverage of neighbouring groups, whose ethos, and whose struggles, much resemble those of the Mursi. The site continues to serve as a point of reference for anyone interested in this part of the world and its people. Visit the website at www.mursi.org.

made financially viable and pedagogically sharp in its curriculum.

David also brought the finances of the RSC into surplus; gave the Centre its modern name; hired its second permanent academic position; and streamlined the Centre's bureaucracy. He enabled, consulted, and listened to his academic and administrative staff. He entrenched the Centre as a permanent and respected feature of the University.

David did all this without losing sight of the situation of some of the world's most vulnerable people. Today, twenty years on, one can find on the RSC's website the compelling words he composed while director: "there is no justification for studying the causes of human suffering if the purpose of one's study is not, ultimately, to find ways of relieving and preventing that suffering."

But he paid a price for his efforts. As the blood pressure of the RSC staff went down, his own went up. He worked long hours and took on the worries of keeping

the Centre together. He faced some degree of criticism by some people inside and outside Oxford who doubted the direction he had chosen. But the RSC that exists and flourishes today is in many respects David Turton's legacy. His indispensable role in the Centre's history was recognised earlier this year when the fifteen annual bursaries for the Online School in Forced Migration were named "David Turton Awards".

No account of David's time at the RSC would be complete without mention of his wife, Pat. Pat not only tolerated David's time-consuming focus, but hosted numerous RSC-related discussions and events at their home in Great Clarendon Street.

The RSC that David played such a role in shaping has now outlived him. Thanks in large measure to the contribution of this quietly inspirational scholar and leader, the Centre will likely outlive all of us as well.

In addition to Pat, David is survived by a son, Danny, a daughter-in-law, Lisa, and two grandsons, Zeddy and Asa.

The diverse economic lives of refugees

Alexander Betts, Maria Flinder Stierna, Naohiko Omata, and Olivier Sterck

The Refugee Economies Programme

New research highlights the heterogeneity of refugee experiences in camps and cities in Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia, and draws out the implications for policy and practice.

There is sometimes an assumption that the economic lives of refugees in low and middle-income countries are relatively homogeneous. People imagine that life in refugee camps is rather like a Soviet *kolkhoz*, with people receiving similar levels of assistance from humanitarian organisations. Meanwhile, there is a sense that in cities, refugees face relatively uniform constraints, with limited access to assistance and restrictions on access to the formal sector employment. In a recent article published in *World Development*, the Refugee Economies Programme team challenges these assumptions.

Drawing upon original quantitative and qualitative data collected in camps and cities in Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia, the article reveals that refugees' lives are heterogeneous. Using the Refugee Economies Dataset, based on 8,996 interviews with refugees across contexts, we systematically compared 12 sub-populations of refugees living in seven refugee camps and three cities, enabling us to examine variation by country of origin, host country, and location. We found that although refugees' economic lives have some common characteristics, there is also significant variation in income, assets, and food security. These variations exist across context (camps or city), nationality, and household.

By examining within-group variation in the economic lives of refugees, we were able to explore the role of inequality within refugee populations. One of our most surprising findings is that inequality is sometimes relatively high within refugee communities, but levels of income (in)equality vary significantly across contexts. Gini coefficients are commonly used by economists to measure inequality, but have rarely been applied to refugee settings. The Gini coefficients across our sub-populations range from 0.27 for Somali refugees in the Dollo Ado camp, which corresponds to the Gini of Sweden, one of the most equal countries in the world, to 0.47 for Somali refugees in Nairobi, which is about the Gini of Mexico, one of the most unequal countries in

the world. Inequality levels among refugees appear to be lower in the camps than the cities. While average incomes are lower in camps, households face broadly similar constraints and receive the same type of assistance. These observations potentially open up new avenues for thinking about research into the causes of inequality within refugee communities.

In addition to economic outcomes, we also find that refugees' economic strategies vary. One of the methodological innovations of our data collection was to disaggregate different sources of income, a variable that is usually recorded in aggregate. We found that particular groups are differently reliant upon work, remittances, and aid as sources of income. For example, camp populations tend to be more reliant upon aid, Somali communities and urban populations more dependent upon remittances, while income from work is generally much more available in cities. In camps, income from work is often fairly homogenous. This is because most paid work in camps in East Africa is 'incentive work', paid by NGOs. In the Kakuma refugee camp, for example, nearly half of the working refugees are incentive workers, with relatively fixed incentive payments averaging about USD 74 per month. This partly explains why the average incomes of working refugees are similar across nationalities in Kakuma. When refugees do not work for international organisations or NGOs, they tend to specialise in certain activities by nationality. In Kakuma, working Somali refugees are about four times more likely to be involved in trade than the Congolese, while Congolese workers are twice as likely to do manual work.

Overall, our research highlights many striking examples of heterogeneity. In terms of socio-economic outcomes, there is significant variation by income, assets, and consumption levels. In terms of strategies and resources, the balance of income from work, remittances, and social protection varies significantly, as do the types of work undertaken.

Recognising diversity and heterogeneity matters for policy and practice. It reveals that one-size-fits-all approaches to refugee assistance are likely to be ineffective unless complemented by contextual understanding that is specific to (a) the host country, (b) urban/camp context, and (c) nationality group – and in some cases specific to (d) households and individuals (e.g. based on gender, education levels, and number of years in exile). Refugee assistance programmes should therefore be designed with subpopulations in mind and take into account differences in living standards, strategies, and how institutions and identity shape economic lives in each context.

Assistance models might be differently targeted to address the particular needs of different populations. In situations of greater inequality, such as among Somali refugees in Nairobi, refugees may require

different levels of assistance, with some able to live independently of aid, making means-testing or a ‘graduation’ model a viable policy option. In situations in which refugees have different economic strategies, they may require different types of assistance. Those whose primary sources of income are work or remittance may benefit more from microfinance or forms of adaptive social protection, which enable households to cope with shocks or fluctuations in income levels. Those who have recently fled their country of origin or are dependent on aid as their primary source of income for other reasons may be more likely to require long-term cash assistance.

The article is available as: Alexander Betts, Maria Flinder Stierna, Naohiko Omata, and Olivier Sterck (2024) ‘The economic lives of refugees,’ *World Development* 182: 106693, and is open access.



In the Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya. Credit: Raphael Bradenbrink.

New developments at the Refugee-Led Research Hub

Isimbi Grace, Martha Hamilton, Buhendwa Iragi, Andonis Marden, Salama Mariam, Mohamed Hassan Mohamud, Ruth Nyabuto, Fardosa Salah, Ghazal Sarah Salehi, Pauline Vidal, Pascal Zigashane, and Professor Alexander Betts

The Refugee-Led Research Hub

The Refugee-Led Research Hub (RLRH) team will enter its fifth year of programming in October 2024. Our efforts remain consistent: to support individuals affected by forced displacement to become leaders in academic, research, and professional fields related to forced migration, human rights, humanitarian response, and other areas identified by RLRH affiliates.

The past academic year has marked a period of reflection and evaluation as we took stock of achievements and lessons learned through four years of enriching academic, research, and livelihoods programming. Our team of more than 20 colleagues based in the UK and East Africa continue to engage with a growing network of more than 600 affiliates from across the world. Within our Research Pillar, our colleagues have led more than ten individual and collective research projects, focusing on themes relating to refugee leadership, livelihoods, and self-reliance. Meanwhile, our Professional Placements Pillar has facilitated 46 placements with influential and allied actors, advancing meaningful career pathways for affiliates who have engaged in our academic and research trainings.

In the past year, our [Academic Pillar](#) expanded the reach of our hallmark bridging programme, RSC Pathways. We have entered into a partnership with Kiron, a nonprofit dedicated to widening access to education for refugees via digital inclusion, to develop a self-paced version of RSC Pathways that can be made available to a significantly larger cohort of refugee and displaced learners worldwide. RSC Foundations will continue to offer the content from RSC Pathways, prepared by RSC faculty, focusing on the main themes and methodologies in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. Beginning in 2025, the course will be publicly available to more than 1,000 learners per year.

Our academic bridging programmes remain closely linked with Graduate Horizons, RLRH's hallmark graduate access support scheme. In 2024, more than 40 participants of Graduate Horizons received

offers for graduate degrees at universities across the world, and many have started fully funded Master's and DPhil programmes at Oxford for the 2024-25 academic year. These programmes serve as a critical launchpad for individuals who already possess a Bachelor's degree and are interested in developing their skills. Some of them have the opportunity for onward study with the RSC on the Online Schools, the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, and the DPhils in International Development and in Migration Studies. As our community of learners grows, we have introduced a new series of advanced courses that cover a diverse suite of academic, research, and professional skills. These offerings, which fit in our Extensions portfolio, aim to accompany individuals as they progress into academic and research careers.

RLRH's [Research Pillar](#) also benefits from the aforementioned academic training and networks, which serve as a pipeline to support those who identify as refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, stateless, and other migration statuses to carry out research on topics of interest. In addition, more than 300 learners have accessed the Research Pillar's own series of training sessions in professional research skills and methods. Since October 2023, our eight-person research team has worked on two studies: 1) A study on access to formal work opportunities across Africa (Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Malawi, South Sudan, Rwanda, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Angola, Zimbabwe, Libya, Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia), with a focus on the gaps that exist between policy and practice, funded by the Amahoro Coalition; 2) A study on access to digital livelihoods in Kenya, in collaboration with Dr Marie Godin at the University of Leicester.

In order to increase our impact and raise the profile of refugee-led research in Kenya, we have joined a three-year consortium (2024-2026) led by the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) with Maseno University to improve linkages between policymakers, Kenyan researchers, and refugee researchers, funded by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Kenya. As part of this project, the RLRH convened an annual conference in September 2024, and organised research workshops for host and displaced scholars in April 2024. The Research Pillar has also supported seven independent research projects, focusing on topics identified by individual researchers and of relevance to their communities. They will be published as part of RLRH's Refugee-Led Working Paper Series by the end of 2024. Finally, we have increased our presence in the Kakuma Camp in Kenya under the leadership of our Kakuma Coordinator, where 25 learners participated in qualitative research training series, along with a book club and movie screenings.

Our **Professional Placements Pillar** continues to support RLRH affiliates to advance their careers by applying skills from our academic and research training in professional placements with influential organisations. We have developed partnerships with allied organisations including: PILnet, Chatham House, UNHCR Education, the Connected Learning in Crisis Consortium (CLCC), DRC's Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDDS), Oxford's Forced Migration Review (FMR), UNITAR's Global Platform for Action, Australian National University's Rewriting Jurisprudence, East African Centre for Forced Migration and Displacement (EACFMD), and Refugee Education UK (REUK). We also supported recruitment efforts of partner organisations to encourage employment of refugee candidates. These partnerships offer unique opportunities for RLRH affiliates to develop their professional profiles and to make valued contributions to the wider research and

humanitarian ecosystems. In the coming year, we are looking forward to advancing new partnerships to serve our growing network of alumni. If you are interested in hosting an RLRH affiliate at your organisation, please be in touch. We would be grateful to co-develop an opportunity with you.

As part of the above activities, RLRH colleagues have participated in a range of public events, including a delegation of more than 20 people at the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva in December 2023. They also hosted the third annual Refugee-Led Research Festival in Nairobi in September 2024. This four-day festival is being convened in partnership with the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) and Maseno University in Kenya, and included the first Kenya Evidence Platform Annual Conference on 17-18 September. The Festival and conference celebrated and showcased refugee-led research and refugee leadership in academia and humanitarian policy and practice. The week involved participation of representatives from across the East African refugee-response ecosystem, including refugee researchers, refugee-led organisations (RLOs), (I)NGOs, the Government of Kenya, universities, philanthropic organisations, and businesses.

We extend our appreciation to the many people and organisations that have supported our work and made all of the above possible. In particular, we owe our gratitude to RSC colleagues who regularly deliver exceptional academic content to RLRH learners, the British Institute in Eastern African (BIEA) who host our office in Nairobi and collaborate on a myriad of research endeavours, and the IKEA Foundation and Mastercard Foundation who have very generously funded us and supported our connections with a wide network of partners.

Further information and reports published by RLRH can be found at www.refugeeledresearch.org. If you have any questions or would like to be in touch, you are welcome to reach out at info@refugeeledresearch.org.



Participants at the 2024 Refugee-led Research Festival.

Credit: RLRH.

Outreach

At the Refugee Studies Centre, outreach activities play a key role in advancing refugee issues and developing a global community of academics, policymakers, and practitioners working in the field of forced migration. An increasing number of dedicated outlets for a variety of academic and non-academic materials promote the work of researchers and practitioners, and give a voice to refugees themselves.

The RSC's varied portfolio of outputs includes publications such as the *Journal of Refugee Studies*, public events, and networking initiatives that promote influential engagement with a range of academics, policymakers, and practitioners. *Forced Migration Review*, the RSC's flagship publication, is the most widely read publication on forced migration. It is available free of charge, in print and online, in four languages – English, Arabic, French, and Spanish. Our Working Paper series numbers over

130, all available to download from the RSC website. We also have a 'Research in Brief' series which aims to make our academic research more accessible to policymakers, practitioners, and the public.

We keep in regular touch with supporters through a monthly newsletter, emailed to subscribers. To subscribe to our newsletter or to receive alerts about events, courses and *Forced Migration Review*, fill in the form on our website at: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/forms/general/connect

Digital communications

RSC website

The RSC website is central to communicating our research and providing information about our courses, events, and public engagement. It provides a wealth of information about the RSC's research, as well as profiles of staff members and a searchable database featuring both RSC publications and external publications by RSC academics. Prospective students can learn about our postgraduate and professional teaching programmes, and read about the experiences of our alumni.

Online at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk

Rethinking Refuge website

The Rethinking Refuge website offers short, research-based articles aimed at rethinking refugee issues from various angles, including politics, international relations, normative political theory, law, history, and anthropology. It offers articles centred around different core themes of great relevance to the international refugee regime today: refugee protection, emergency and crisis, mobility, refugee agency, humanitarianism, and refugees' economic lives.

Online at www.rethinkingrefuge.org

Social networking and multimedia

We engage with supporters, students, academics, practitioners, policymakers, and others through a wide range of media. Our social media audience has continued to grow throughout 2023-2024:

- On **X/Twitter**, we have over 45,500 followers: [@refugeestudies](https://twitter.com/refugeestudies)

- On **Facebook**, we have over 26,000 followers: www.facebook.com/refugeestudiescentre
- On **LinkedIn**, we have over 5,000 followers: www.linkedin.com/company/refugee-studies-centre-university-of-oxford
- Our **YouTube** channel has received over **37,700** views in the past year. Video playlists include Events, such as RSC online seminars and lectures; selected staff media interviews; and Studying at Oxford: www.youtube.com/refugeestudiescentre
- Our podcast series on our **SoundCloud** channel registered over **2,000** plays over the past 12 months. This provides podcasts of in-person RSC seminars, Annual Lectures, and events such as RSC conferences: www.soundcloud.com/refugeestudiescentre
- We also have a **Vimeo** account for videos. Find us at vimeo.com/refugeestudiescentre/videos



Journal of Refugee Studies

The *Journal of Refugee Studies* (JRS) is published by Oxford University Press in association with the Refugee Studies Centre.

The editors are Professor Simon Turner (Lund University) and Professor Megan Bradley (McGill University). Reviews Editors are Dr Georgia Cole (University of Edinburgh), Franzisca Zanker (Arnold Bergstraesser Institute at the University of Freiburg, Germany), Bidisha Biswas (Western Washington University), and Ruth Nyabuto (Refugee Studies Centre).

The multidisciplinary journal provides a forum for exploring the dynamics and challenges of forced migration, and critically analysing national, regional, and international responses, covering all categories of displaced people. Contributions that develop theoretical understandings of forced migration, or advance knowledge of concepts, policies, and practice, are welcomed.

Find full information at www.jrs.oxfordjournals.org. Members of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration may subscribe at a reduced rate.

New books

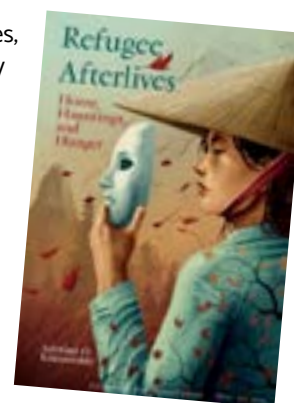
Refugee Afterlives: Home, Hauntings, and Hunger

Ashwiny O Kistnareddy (Liverpool University Press, 2024)

This book compares fiction and non-fiction written by two generations of the Vietnamese diaspora, the so-called 1.5 and second generation in France and Canada, namely, Kim Thúy, Doan Bui, Clément Baloup, Hoai Huong Nguyen, and Viet Thanh Nguyen (USA), as they grapple with their positionality as refugee(s) children and the attendant problematics of loss. How they recuperate this loss by deploying notions such as home, hauntings and hunger is central to this analysis.

Refugee Afterlives identifies the tools deployed by the 1.5 and second generation, and tests their limits while understanding that these writers' creations are constantly changing and shifting paradigms and will continue to be so over the next decades. Each writer is finding their own voice and pathway(s) and while these may sometimes

overlap and contain commonalities, afterlives by default imply plurality and differences. This book offers ways of examining these texts, juxtaposing them, contrasting them, putting them in dialogue with each other, underlining their differences, but ultimately demonstrating that there is much to be gained in seeing how 1.5ers and the so-called second generation Vietnamese refugee writers contribute to a wider discussion of Vietnamese refugee(s) children and what happens to them after resettlement.



Fragments of Home: Refugee Housing and the Politics of Shelter

Tom Scott-Smith (Stanford University Press, 2024)

Abandoned airports. Shipping containers. Squatted hotels. These are just three of the many unusual places that have housed refugees in the past decade. The story of international migration is often told through personal odysseys and dangerous journeys, but when people arrive at their destinations a more mundane task begins: refugees need a place to stay. Governments and charities have adopted a range of strategies in response to this need. Some have sequestered refugees in massive camps of glinting metal. Others have hosted them in renovated office blocks and disused warehouses. They often end up in prefabricated shelters flown in from abroad. This book focuses on seven examples of emergency shelter, from Germany to Jordan, which emerged after the great 'summer of migration' in 2015.

Drawing on detailed ethnographic research into these shelters, the book reflects on their political implications

and opens up much bigger questions about humanitarian action. By exploring how aid agencies and architects approached this basic human need, Tom Scott-Smith demonstrates how shelter has many elements that are hard to reconcile or combine; shelter is always partial and incomplete, producing mere fragments of home. Ultimately, he argues that current approaches to emergency shelter have led to destructive forms of paternalism and concludes that the principle of autonomy can offer a more fruitful approach to sensitive and inclusive housing.



Forced Migration Review reimaged

Jo Boyce

FMR Deputy Editor (maternity cover)

Our influential magazine underwent a major overhaul of its online presence and visual identity this year, offering easier access to content and a lively new look and feel.

The Forced Migration Review (FMR) website had served the magazine well for a decade but with new technology and reading habits, it was no longer fully fit for purpose. Reader surveys suggested FMR could be easier to read online, particularly on mobile devices, and users needed new, more intuitive ways to access content.

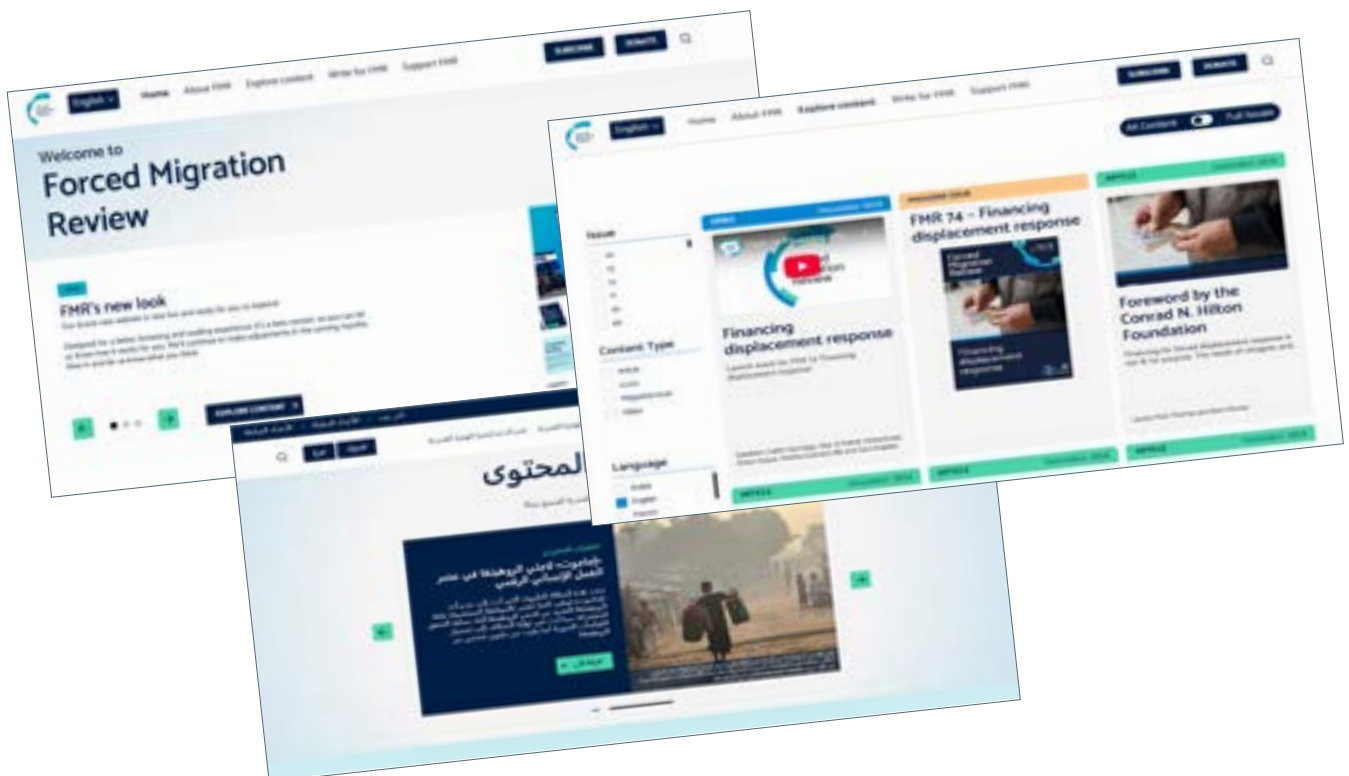
The redesign process began in late 2023 and thanks to the exceptional efforts of the team, led by Emily Arnold-Fernandez and Catherine Meredith with continuing input from maternity leave from Alice Philip, a new, fully reimaged website was up and running within months.

The new site structure means that users can now access content from each new issue in multiple ways – as a collection of individual online articles, as a PDF download, and through an online ‘flipbook’. The site is accessible in four languages – English, French, Spanish and Arabic – selected via a drop-down menu.

Visually, the site is cleaner, clearer and more engaging, with new branding in line with the Refugee Studies Centre’s own redesign. At the same time, it continues to respect the needs of low-bandwidth users and meet best practice for accessibility.

Forced Migration Review has been publishing for nearly 40 years, and that means there is a very large back catalogue of issues. Not all content is fully available on the site yet, but FMR are working hard to upload it. In the meantime, you can continue to access content via their archive site at <https://bit.ly/FMRarchive>.

Users may encounter some glitches as the team finalise the site transformation but FMR welcome feedback and encourage you to let them know your thoughts, or any problems you may encounter, by emailing fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk.



FMR in 2023-2024

Forced Migration Review brings together diverse authors from around the world – especially those with lived experience – to foster practical learning and discussion that can improve outcomes for forcibly displaced people. The magazine is published in Arabic, English, French and Spanish in print and online and is available free of charge to readers.

In 2023–2024 FMR produced two issues:



FMR 72: Ukraine: Insights and implications

The war on Ukraine has caused forced displacement on a scale and at a speed not witnessed in Europe since World War II. This issue of FMR seeks to address questions that have arisen out

of the crisis, reflecting on the lessons learned from the immediate response and the implications for the international refugee and asylum system going forward.

A wide range of authors from both Ukraine and elsewhere reflected on the displacement crisis so far from a different perspectives; as displaced people, as hosts, as legal specialists, as humanitarians. Several articles addressed the displacement experiences and gaps in support for different marginalised groups, including stateless people, disabled people and foreign students from sub-Saharan Africa. The role of temporary protection policies in many host countries was discussed by a number of authors. The issue was translated into Ukrainian and Russian to ensure a wide readership amongst those most affected by the displacement crisis.



FMR 73: Digital disruption and displacement

Digital technologies are transforming our lives. Forcibly displaced people are using digital technologies in ways that inform and shape their migration and settlement in new places. At the

same time, digital technologies are being used on (or against) forcibly displaced people. Complex predictive modelling, geolocation tracking on mobile phones, biometric data use and dissemination, digital financial systems and the use of AI in decision-making are among the digital technologies discussed in this issue.

Articles covered topics including the impact on digital services on displaced Ukrainians experiencing gender-based violence, how refugees are using digital platforms to create businesses and livelihoods in the DRC and how displaced people are responding to biometric data collection in Venezuela.

Dr Derya Ozkul and Dr Marie Godin, at that time colleagues at the Refugee Studies Centre within ODID, acted as Expert Advisors on the issue

FMR's Inclusion Programme supports authors with lived experience of forced displacement who may be new to writing for publications like FMR through mentorship, deep and sensitive editorial collaboration, and the ability to write and communicate in a language of choice. The Inclusion Programme also ensures FMR is accessible to readers around the world through publication in multiple languages, and in low/high-bandwidth and print editions that are accessible to refugees and host communities through libraries and NGOs. In 2024, we redesigned our website and magazine with inclusion as a central guiding principle.

New reports

Skilled Worker Visas for Refugees: An Evaluation of the UK's Displaced Talent Mobility Pilot (DTMP)

Nour Moussa and Olivier Sterck (April 2024)

There has been growing recognition of labour migration as a complementary solution for refugees and displaced people. Several pilots and programmes have emerged to match displaced people in the Global South with employers in the Global North in need of their skills and then facilitate their movement to these countries. One such example is the Displaced Talent Mobility Pilot (DTMP) announced in July 2021 by the Home Office, in partnership with the charity Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB).

TBB was established in 2016 out of the simple idea that displaced people have skills and talents, and can positively contribute to companies and communities globally when barriers to their mobility are removed. TBB uses the Talent Catalog, with over 100,000 registered people, to match skilled people in displacement with public-service providers or private companies and then works with employers, governments, and civil society to facilitate displaced people's migration.

The DTMP was launched in October 2021. Initially, the DTMP aimed to move 50–100 displaced persons and their family members from Jordan and Lebanon to the UK as skilled migrants in non-healthcare roles by the end of October 2023. The pilot has since been extended until 1 November 2024. Utilising the Skilled Worker migration route, it will continue to provide a pathway for up to 200 skilled displaced people to come to the UK, of any nationality or location.

This report assesses the achievements, impacts, and sustainability of the DTMP. It draws on qualitative research, including interviews with individuals who moved through the pilot, and staff from employing organisations, TBB, the Home Office, and partner organisations.



The research highlights that the DTMP achieved most of its stated objectives (e.g. number of employers expressing interest and number of sectors recruiting displaced talent) but fell short of meeting the expected numbers of displaced people relocated. As of 1 September 2023, only 17 displaced individuals had received job offers, of which only 12 had moved to the UK. The relatively low take-up of the pilot can largely be attributed to demand-side barriers and challenges in engaging employers, including the significant cost of recruiting internationally and the economic and political environment.

The report also highlights the strong positive impacts of the pilot on candidates and their employers. Candidates relocating to the UK experience transformative changes in their livelihoods, safety, and overall well-being. Employers similarly report high levels of satisfaction as new hires fill skill gaps and bring wider benefits to the office through their past experiences. The report unpacks the challenges and lessons learnt until September 2023 to make recommendations for how the programme should continue in the future.

Refugee Debt and Livelihoods in Northern Kenya

Vittorio Bruni, Patrick Mutinda Muthui, Cory Rodgers, and Olivier Sterck (June 2024)

While humanitarian assistance to refugees has increasingly focused on fostering self-reliance, refugees are highly exposed to economic shocks that make self-reliance difficult to achieve. With limited access to employment and low wages, refugees are rarely able to put aside savings in case of emergency. Those who have recently fled their country of origin may have no assets to sell if needed. Informal social protection mechanisms may be unavailable or less effective in contexts of mass displacement where existing networks are disrupted and vulnerability becomes widespread. Given these constraints, borrowing is often the only coping strategy

available to refugees. Based on quantitative and qualitative data collected over a one-year period, this report studies how debt is used as a coping strategy by refugees living in Kakuma refugee camp and the Kalobeyei settlement in Kenya, which, together, constitute one of the largest refugee camps in Africa, hosting more than 270,000 refugees in October 2023, according to the UNHCR.



Events

The RSC convenes a diverse range of events each year, including public seminars, workshops, and conferences. These include major conferences on Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, public seminars, and the Annual Harrell-Bond and Elizabeth Colson public lectures. We believe it is important to engage both at a 'local' level, whether with the local Oxford community or with civil society, and beyond, with the international community.

Annual Lectures

Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2023

In November 2023, we were honoured to welcome author **Dina Nayeri** for the Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture, **Who Gets Believed? A conversation with Dina Nayeri**, at St Anne's College, Oxford.

In a change to the usual lecture format, this year's event featured Nayeri in conversation with the RSC Director, Professor Tom Scott-Smith. Nayeri's latest book **Who Gets Believed?** combines deep reportage with her own life experience to examine what constitutes believability in our society. Exploring ideas of persuasion and performance, Nayeri takes us behind the scenes in emergency rooms, corporate boardrooms, asylum interviews, and into her own family, to ask, where lies the difference between being believed and being dismissed? What does this mean for our culture?

The Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture is named in honour of Dr Barbara Harrell-Bond, the founding Director of the Refugee Studies Centre.



The lecture is available to listen to at: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/ahbl2023-podcast

Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2024

For this year's Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture, we were pleased to welcome documentary filmmaker Marc Isaacs for a discussion focused on **Displacement and Documentary Film**.

Themes of displacement, migration, and hospitality have been at the heart of Isaacs' films for many years. From his documentation of refugees in Calais to his detailed studies of xenophobia among English communities, Isaacs has turned his camera on the complex lives and contradictory attitudes that surround us. A recent feature in *Sight and Sound* describes Isaacs' filmmaking as capturing "a sense of transience and instability that is universal". His films are "set in nebulous or liminal spaces" that take us deep into the lives of others.

For this year's lecture, Isaacs showed clips from his films that deal most closely with themes of displacement and hospitality, discussing ethnographic representation and the process of documentary filmmaking with Tom Scott-Smith, RSC Director.

The Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture is named after renowned anthropologist Professor Elizabeth Colson.

The lecture is available to watch at: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/colson2023-video



Public Seminar Series

Refugee History, Human Rights and the Occupied Palestinian Territory Hilary term 2024

Series convened by Professor Catherine Briddick

This research-led seminar mini-series provided an opportunity to engage with current events in Israel and Gaza. The speakers were scholars whose expertise and research illuminates issues relevant to the conflict. With them, we discussed how displacement has shaped the history of Gaza and to explore the relationships between international humanitarian, refugee, and human rights law.

Consonant with the RSC's commitment to build knowledge

and understanding of the causes and effects of forced migration, this series aims to encourage reflection and contribute to debate in academia and in practice.

'there is no justification for studying, and attempting to understand, the causes of human suffering if the purpose of one's study is not, ultimately, to find ways of relieving and preventing that suffering.' – Dr David Turton.

See the Academic Record for a full list of seminars held this year as part of the termly RSC Public Seminar Series.

Refugee Protection and AAA and others (2023-4) | Panel discussions

Series convened by Dr Nicola Palmer (The Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London) and Professor Catherine Briddick

Under the UK Government's 'Rwanda policy', certain people claiming asylum in the UK would be sent to Rwanda where their claims would be decided by the Rwandan authorities. If their claims were successful, they would be granted asylum in Rwanda. Hosted by Oxford University's Border Criminologies and Refugee Studies Centre with The Dickson Poon School of Law (King's College London), this series of panel discussions examined the arguments advanced in *R (on the application of AAA and others) v SSHD*, which challenged the legality of the Rwanda policy. They analysed the implications for Rwanda, the UK, and for refugee protection more broadly.

In Panel 1, Professor Cathryn Costello (University College Dublin), Raza Husain KC (Matrix Chambers), Dr Madeline Garlick (UNCHR) and Professor Catherine Briddick (chair) discussed **International Refugee Law and Safe Third**

Countries. In Panel 2, Professor Briddick was joined by Professor Michael Collyer (University of Sussex), Dr Frank Habineza MP (Rwandan Parliament 2018-2023; Founding President of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda), Dr Felix Ndahinda (Researcher and Consultant), Dr Uttara Shahani (RSC), and Dr Nicola Palmer (chair) to discuss **Borders, Racialisation, and Refugee Protection in Rwanda**. The final panel focused on **The UK-Rwanda Agreement and Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill** with speakers Sile Reynolds (Freedom from Torture), Professor Jonathan Portes (King's College London), Zoe Bantleman (Immigration Law Practitioners' Association), Dr Catherine Briddick, and Dr Nicola Palmer, chaired by Dr Alpa Parmar (University of Cambridge).

Watch at: <https://vimeo.com/908675298>, <https://vimeo.com/908679565> and <https://vimeo.com/906314472>.



Oxford Sanctuary Fair 2024

Part 1: University of Sanctuary Fair

Following on from the success of last year's Oxford Sanctuary Fair, this year the Sanctuary Fair involved two parts, the first University focused and the second community focused. The former took place in April at Worcester College. This event aimed to bring together different members of the University to better understand our commitment to being a University of Sanctuary and how to make this a reality across the intercollegiate university. University members joined us to learn more about what being a University of Sanctuary means for all

of us, and how students, faculty, and staff across different colleges and departments are committed to ensuring an inclusive culture for sanctuary seekers in the University and beyond.

The University of Sanctuary Fair was a collaborative event organised by the University of Oxford, Oxford Sanctuary Community, the Refugee Studies Centre (University of Oxford), Worcester College (University of Oxford), and Asylum Welcome.

Part 2: Oxford Sanctuary Fair

The second part of the Sanctuary Fair took place in June at Oxford Town Hall. Organised by Asylum Welcome, the event brought together the University of Oxford, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, local organisations, the private sector, and wider Oxford community members to celebrate and share best practices around ensuring sanctuary. Free to attend, the fair featured exhibitions, live music, and market

stalls showcasing local initiatives, as well as interactive workshops for attendees to participate in.

The event formed part of the national Refugee Week celebrations taking place on 17-23 June 2024. It aimed to raise awareness of the importance of sanctuary, as well as to connect refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants with local community members and service providers.



Sessions at the Sanctuary Fairs held in April (left) and in June (right). Credit: RSC.

Work-in-Progress Seminars

The RSC's Work-in-Progress seminars lie at the heart of the Centre's intellectual life. The series has two aims. First, to enable those engaged in research to share and receive feedback on written work in advance of publication in a supportive and rigorous environment. Second, to strengthen the RSC as a community of scholars whose members are interested in, and knowledgeable about, each other's work.

Members of staff involved in research, Visiting Fellows, Research Associates, emeritus professors and DPhils are all encouraged to participate in the series. Written work is read in advance to ensure that the time available in

the seminar is used to provide meaningful feedback to authors. Seminar discussions are open and collegial, their sole purpose being to assist the person sharing work to develop and improve it.

This year, the research topics discussed included refugee education, refugee-led organisations and localisation, expectations of refugee resettlement, and US asylum adjudication.

Seminars take place fortnightly each term and are convened by Professor Catherine Briddick.

Fundraising and development

Our network of supporters is always of critical importance to the continued development of the RSC and the success of our research, teaching, and outreach programmes. We would like to extend our recognition and gratitude not only to donors but also to our alumni, our cutting-edge researchers, our renowned emeritus colleagues, and the many policymakers and practitioners in our orbit. We continue to work with the Oxford University Development Office to identify new prospects and supporters for our work.

Our current three-year funding agreement with the IKEA Foundation enables us to continue the research of the Refugee Economies Programme at the RSC. This agreement builds upon previous funding from the Foundation that enabled the Programme to undertake pioneering work on the economic lives of refugees. The funding covers a series of research and related activities for the period 2021–2024 that build on the Programme’s previous research on the socio-economic inclusion of refugees, based on participatory research methods.

The Refugee-Led Research Fund has continued to grow and develop thanks to funding and support from both the IKEA Foundation and the Mastercard Foundation.

Our Pedro Arrupe Research Fellow in Forced Migration, Dr Hiba Salem, continues to produce superb research. Her research focuses on education in contexts of forced displacement. We acknowledge the generous support of Campion Hall and Jesuit Refugee Service Europe in making this position possible, and are grateful for their agreement to continue funding this post on completion of Dr Salem’s term.

The funding provided to Dr Ashwiny Kistnareddy by the Leverhulme Trust is supporting her project on Refugee Children as a Site of Critical Intervention, and enabling the development of new, related research projects. The Trust has also supported Dr Tom Scott-Smith’s work on the life Lord John Boyd Orr.

An ongoing priority is to raise funds to support bursaries for participants from the Global South, including refugees themselves, to be able to attend our Online School as well as to take the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. The Online School represents one of the most tangible ways in which we can have a direct impact on policy and practice. The IKEA Foundation has been an essential source of bursaries for the Online School in recent years.

We continue to be extremely thankful to the range of supporters who fund the work of Forced Migration Review. The co-editors fundraise for each specific issue, and the ongoing relationships they enjoy with governments, NGOs, and foundations are a central part of our ability to continue to publish relevant issues aimed to shape thinking among policymakers and practitioners.

Most of our work depends upon external financial support. In many cases we are privileged to benefit from research council grants, including from the European Research Council, the British Academy, and the Economic and Social Research Council, but in other areas, philanthropic, governmental or private funding is essential. If you are interested in any aspect of our work, please do get in touch.

Donors

We are deeply appreciative to all of the donors listed below, both for their financial support and their enthusiastic collaboration over recent years.

Danish Refugee Council
European Commission
Jesuit Refugee Service
IKEA Foundation
John Fell Fund
Leverhulme Trust
MasterCard Foundation
Robert Bosch Stiftung
Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
UK Research and Innovation

Academic record

Books and edited volumes

Kistnareddy, Ashwiny O. (2024) *Refugee Afterlives: Home, Hauntings, and Hunger*, Liverpool: Liverpool University Press

Scott-Smith, Tom (2024) *Fragments of Home: Refugee Housing and the Politics of Shelter*, Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press

Chapters

Chatty, Dawn (2023) 'An Imperial Lens on Refuge in Greater Syria: Antecedents to Contemporary Humanitarian Practices'. In A. Knudsen and K. Berg (eds) *Continental Encampment: Genealogies of Humanitarian Encampment in the Middle East and Europe*. Oxford: Berghahn Books, pp. 24-42.

Chatty, Dawn (2023) 'The Antecedents of forced migration in the Middle East'. In K. Jacobsen and N. Majidi (eds) *Handbook on Forced Migration*. Cheltenham, UK: Elgar Publishing, pp. 176-182.

Chatty, Dawn (with J. Darwaza and W. Darwaza) (2023) 'Watfa' Speaks'. In Y. Shamma, S. Ilcan, V. Squire, and H. Underhill (eds) *Migration, Culture and Identity: Making Home Away*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 11-29.

Chatty, Dawn (2023) 'Peoples' (non) participation in Conservation: A Case from Oman'. In J.C.E. Watson, J.C. Lovett and R. Morana (eds) *Language and Ecology in Southern and Eastern Arabia*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, pp. 241-260.

Chatty, Dawn (2024) 'Refuge in Syria: Where Duty Outweighs Human Rights Based Approaches'. In A. Knudsen and S. Tobin (eds) *Urban Displacement: Syria's Refugees in the Middle East*. Oxford and New York: Berghahn Books, pp. 213-232. Open access.

Omata, Naohiko (2023) 'Forced migration'. In M. Clarke and X. Zhao (eds) *Elgar Encyclopedia of Development*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing, pp. 263-266.

Articles

Betts, Alexander, and Kathrin Bachleitner (2024) 'The EU's Normative Dissensus on Migration: How National Identities Shaped Responses to the European Refugee Crisis', *Journal of European Integration*, 1-16, doi: 10.1080/07036337.2024.2382184

Betts, Alexander, Stierna, Maria Flinder, **Omata, Naohiko**, and **Sterck, Olivier** (2024) 'The economic lives of refugees', *World Development*, 182, doi: 10.1016/j.worlddev.2024.106693.

Bradenbrink, Raphael, Stierna, Maria Flinder, and **Sterck, Olivier** (with J.R. Pozuelo) (2023) 'Depression, violence and socioeconomic outcomes among refugees in East Africa: evidence from a multicountry representative survey', *BMJ Mental Health*, 26, doi: 10.1136/bmjment-2023-300773.

Briddick, Catherine (with C. Costello) (2023) 'Supreme Judgecraft: Non-Refoulement and the end of the UK-Rwanda 'deal'?', *Verfassungsblog*, doi: 10.59704/6ac71ea278foaf98.

Briddick, Catherine (2024) 'Resisting domestic violence', *International Journal of Refugee Law*, doi: 10.1093/ijrl/ead032.

Briddick, Catherine (2024) 'When Treaties are Forbidden', *Verfassungsblog*, doi: 10.59704/7ed84996bca17cba.

Chatty, Dawn (2023) "Forward to the Special Issue Fragile Selves", *Annali di Ca'Foscari*, Serie orientale / Supplemento 59, 7-16, doi: 10.30687/AnnOr/2385-3042/2023/02. Open access.

Kistnareddy, Ashwiny O. (2024) 'Ambivalent encounters in Calais', *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, doi: 10.1080/07256868.2024.2365759.

Kistnareddy, Ashwiny O. (2024) "'Against the Flow": Exile and "Willful Subjects" in Malika Mokeddem's *Mes Hommes* and Kim Thúy's *Vi*", *Contemporary Women's Writing*, doi: 10.1093/cww/vpad024.

Salem, Hiba (2023) 'Education, ontological security, and preserving hope in liminality: learning from the daily strategies exercised by Syrian refugee youth in Jordan', *Journal of Refugee Studies*, doi: 10.1093/jrs/fead055

Scott-Smith, Tom (2023) 'Re-Reviewed: Imposing Aid: Emergency Assistance to Refugees by Barbara Harrell-Bond', *Cambridge Journal of Anthropology*, 41 (2): 112-22.

Sterck, Olivier (with A. Delius) (2024) 'Cash transfers and micro-enterprise performance: Theory and quasi-experimental evidence from Kenya', *Journal of Development Economics*, 167, 103232.

Papers and reports

Briddick, Catherine (with C. Costello) (2023) 'Written Evidence to the House of Lords International Agreements Committee (URA0015)', <https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/127284/pdf/>.

Bruni, Vittorio, and **Sterck, Olivier** (with P.M. Muthui and C. Rodgers) (2024) *Refugee Debt and Livelihoods in Northern Kenya*. Report. Refugee Studies Centre.

Sterck, Olivier (with N. Moussa) (2024) *Skilled Worker Visas for Refugees: An Evaluation of the UK's Displaced Talent Mobility Pilot (DTMP)*. Report. Refugee Studies Centre.

RSC Research in Brief

Omata, Naohiko, and **Gidron, Yotam** (2023) 'Refugee entrepreneurship in Rwanda', RSC Research in Brief 20.

RSC Working Papers

Karooma, Cleophas, Murembe, Neema, Serwajja, Eria, Nakijoba, Veronica, Withaekx, Sophie, and Coene, Gily (2024) 'Sexual and gender-based violence among protracted refugees in Nakivale refugee settlement, Uganda: Addressing gaps in knowledge and responses'. RSC Working Paper Series 140.

Choudhury, Mohbuba and Paoletti, Emanuela (2024) 'Reviewing the contribution of the private sector to economic and labour market development in forced displacement contexts'. RSC Working Paper Series 141.

Selected presentations

Bridgick, Catherine (2024) 'Resisting Domestic Violence' Refugee Law Clinic seminar for volunteers, Refugee Law Initiative, January.

Bridgick, Catherine (2024) 'Does the EU have a particular problem with particular social groups?' Public Seminar Series, European Studies Centre, St Antony's College, Oxford, January.

Bridgick, Catherine (2024) 'When treaties are forbidden', research presentation at the Refugee Law Initiative Annual Conference, June.

Chatty, Dawn (2023) 'The Syrian Displacement Crisis in Europe and in the Middle East', Keynote Address, Amnesty International, Chipping Norton Chapter, September.

Chatty, Dawn (2023) 'The Duty to be Generous', Roundtable, Middle East Studies Association, Montreal, Canada, November.

Chatty, Dawn (2024) 'Gertrude Bell: a Life Well Lived', Keynote address, St Albans Historical and Architectural Society, St Albans, April.

Chatty, Dawn (2024) 'Mobile Peoples Rights: Threats from Conservation, Extractive Industries, and Green Hydrogen', Panel presentation, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, New York, April.

Gibney, Matthew J. (2023) 'The Moral Foundations of Refugee Protection', Opening Lecture, Pedro Arrupe Summer School in Forced Migration, July

Gibney, Matthew J. (2024) 'The Ethics of Human Smuggling', Oxford Academics in Japan Lecture Series, Oxford University Alumni Office, Tokyo, Japan, June.

Gibney, Matthew J. (2024) 'Why Should We Protect Refugees?', Keynote International Lecture, International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan, June.

Kistnareddy, Ashwiny O. (2023) 'Marginalized 'Migrants': Remembering Forced Migration in Nahapétian's Quitter Tehran and Thúy's Vi', Society for Francophone Postcolonial Studies, London, November.

Kistnareddy, Ashwiny O (2024) 'Language as Home? The interconnections between postcolonial language and home in Vietnamese refugee second generation Hoai Huong Nguyen's *Sous le Ciel qui brûle* (2018)', Society for French Studies, Stirling, July.

Omata, Naohiko (2024) 'Return to remain refugees? Cross-border livelihoods of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda', Public Lecture, University of Sussex, Department of Geography, March.

Omata, Naohiko (2024) 'Self-Reliance Policies for Refugees in Africa', Public Lecture, Intercollegiate Development Discussion Panel, Online, July.

Scott-Smith, Tom (2024) 'Humility and Autonomy: Two Lessons from Humanitarian Shelter Design,' Keynote Address and Public Event hosted by Geneva Graduate Institute and Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD), Switzerland, May.

Sterck, Olivier (2023) 'A Simple Distribution Sensitive Index for Measuring Welfare, Poverty, and Inequality', 11th Annual Christmas Meeting of Belgian Economists, University of Ghent.

Sterck, Olivier (2023) 'A Simple Distribution Sensitive Index for Measuring Welfare, Poverty, and Inequality', Economics Seminar, University of Sheffield.

Sterck, Olivier (2023) 'A Simple Distribution Sensitive Index for Measuring Welfare, Poverty, and Inequality', Conference in Memoriam of Martin Ravallion, Georgetown University.

Sterck, Olivier (2024) 'Skilled Worker Visas for Refugees: An Evaluation of the UK's Displaced Talent Mobility Pilot (DTMP)', RSC Public Seminar, University of Oxford, June.

Sterck, Olivier (2024) 'A Simple Distribution Sensitive Index for Measuring Welfare, Poverty, and Inequality', CSAE Conference, University of Oxford, March.

Sterck, Olivier (2024) 'A Simple Distribution Sensitive Index for Measuring Welfare, Poverty, and Inequality', FAO's Technical Network on Poverty Analysis, February.

Sterck, Olivier (2024) 'A Simple Distribution Sensitive Index for Measuring Welfare, Poverty, and Inequality', Economics Seminar, Ragnar Frisch Centre for Economic Research, University of Oslo.

Annual lectures

Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2023
Discrimination and Delegation: Explaining State Responses to Refugees

Dr Lamis E Abdelaaty (Associate Professor of Political Science, Syracuse University)
15 November 2023, Online

Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2023
Who Gets Believed? A conversation with Dina Nayeri
Dina Nayeri (author)
20 November 2023, St Anne's College, Oxford.

Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2024
Displacement and Documentary Film: A Conversation with Marc Isaacs
Professor Marc Isaacs (Documentary filmmaker/Associate Professor, University College London)
22 May 2024, St Anne's College, Oxford.

Public Seminar Series

Michaelmas term 2023

Convenor: Professor Tom Scott-Smith

Recognising Refugees: Practices and Modes of Recognition

Professor Cathryn Costello (University College Dublin and Hertie School) and **Professor Gregor Noll** (University of Gothenburg), **Professor Liliana Jubilut** (Universidade Católica de Santos), **Dr Tamara Wood** (Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law). **Chair: Dr Luisa Feline Freier de Ferrari** (Universidad del Pacífico), 21 September

Recognising Refugees: Book Discussion on 'IOM Unbound? Obligations and Accountability of the International Organization for Migration in an Era of Expansion'

Dr Angela Sherwood (Queen Mary University) & **Professor Cathryn Costello** (University College Dublin and Hertie School Berlin), **Dr Ben Hudson** (University of Exeter) and **Dr Brid Ní Ghráinne** (Maynooth University), **Dr Anne Koch** (German Institute for International and Security Affairs), 18 October

The Use of New Technologies in Immigration and Asylum Governance: Implications for Human Rights

Dr Derya Ozkul (RSC), **Professor Lorna McGregor** (University of Essex), and **Dr Petra Molnar** (York University, Canada), 25 October

Book launch: Time and Power in Azraq Refugee Camp

Dr Melissa Gatter (University of Sussex), 1 November

Mini-series: Refugee Protection and AAA and others (2023-4) | Panel 1: International Refugee Law and Safe Third Countries

Professor Cathryn Costello (University College Dublin and Hertie School Berlin), **Raza Husain KC** (Matrix Chambers), and **Dr Madeline Garlick** (UNHCR). **Chair: Professor Catherine Briddick** (RSC)

Series convened by Dr Nicola Palmer (King's College London) and Professor Catherine Briddick, 22 November

Mini-series: Refugee Protection and AAA and others (2023-4) | Panel 2: Borders, Racialisation, and Refugee Protection in Rwanda

Professor Michael Collyer (University of Sussex), **Dr Frank Habineza MP** (Member of Rwandan Parliament 2018-2023), **Dr Felix Ndahinda** (researcher and consultant), and **Dr Uttara Shahani** (RSC). **Chair: Dr Nicola Palmer** (King's College London)

Series convened by Dr Nicola Palmer (King's College London) and Professor Catherine Briddick, 29 November

Hilary term 2024

Convenor: Professor Catherine Briddick

Beyond livelihoods: a protracted displacement economy approach

Professor Michael Collyer, **Dr Ceri Oeppen**, **Dr Tahir Zaman**, **Dr Ali Ali** (all University of Sussex), and **Dr Ayub Jan** (University of Peshawar), 17 January

Mini-series: Refugee Protection and AAA and others

(2023-4) | Enabling Refoulement? The UK-Rwanda Agreement and Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill

Sile Reynolds (Freedom from Torture), **Professor Jonathan Portes** (King's College London), **Zoe Bantleman** (Immigration Law Practitioners' Association), **Professor Catherine Briddick** (RSC), and **Dr Nicola Palmer** (King's College London). **Chair: Dr Alpha Palmer** (University of Cambridge)

Series convened by Dr Nicola Palmer (King's College London) and Professor Catherine Briddick, 24 January

Displacement from conflict: old realities, new protections?

Dr Reuven (Ruvi) Ziegler (University of Reading), 31 January

Refugee history in the Gaza Strip

Dr Anne Irfan (University College London), 7 February

Evacuations as displacement

Professor Jane McAdam AO (University of New South Wales), 14 February

Book launch: Becoming Adult on the Move: Migration Journeys, Encounters and Life Transitions

Professor Elaine Chase (UCL), **Professor Dawn Chatty** (RSC), **Ouzra Karimi** (University of Birmingham), **Dr Tamsin Barber** (Oxford Brookes University), **Migena Lala** (Peer Researcher), and **Professor Nando Sigona** (University of Birmingham), 21 February

Protection of the right to nationality: Resolution No.

02/23 of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights / Protección del derecho a la nacionalidad: Resolución No. 02/23 de la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos

Commissioner Andrea Pochak (IACHR), **Dr Laura van Waas** (ISI), and **José Sieber** (attorney), 6 March

Human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory

Francesca P Albanese (United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967), 13 March

Trinity term 2024

Convenor: Professor Naohiko Omata and Professor Tom Scott-Smith

Oxford Humanitarian extractivism: the digital transformation past, present, future

Professor Kristin Sandvik (Peace Research Institute Oslo), 8 May

Film screening and discussion: Missing in Brooks County
Jeff Bemiss (Co-Director, Missing in Brooks County), 15 May

Book launch: The Politics of Crisis-Making: Forced Displacement and Cultures of Assistance in Lebanon

Dr Estella Carpi (University College London), 29 May

Skilled worker visas for refugees – a qualitative evaluation of the UK's Displaced Talent Mobility Pilot

Professor Olivier Sterck (RSC), **Marina Brizar** (Talent Beyond Boundaries), and **Sarah Walder** (Talent Beyond Boundaries), 5 June

Special seminars and lectures

FMR launch event

Mobilising for rights in the MENA region

14 September 2023, Online

FMR launch event

Ukraine: Insights and Implications

17 October 2023, Online

Implications of the International Court of Justice's Provisional Measures in Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel), 26 January 2024
Janina Dill (Blavatnik School of Government), **Victor Kattan** (University of Nottingham), and **Reuven (Ruvii) Ziegler** (University of Reading)

Organised by the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights in association with the Centre for Fundamental Rights, Hertie School, Berlin, and the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford

27 February 2024, Bonavero Institute of Human Rights

Refugee-Led Research Hub events

Refugee-Led Research Festival 2023

11-15 September, Nairobi

Sanctuary Community events

Chileans of the North I Film screening by SolidariTee

Oxford University's Filmmaking Foundation and Oxford Sanctuary Community

1 November 2023, Queen's College

The Oxford Migration Debate

Worcester College in partnership with Oxford Sanctuary Community

2 November 2023, Worcester College

University of Sanctuary Fair: University of Oxford as a University of Sanctuary

24 April 2024, Worcester College

Oxford Sanctuary Fair 2024

Organised by Asylum Welcome in partnership with the University of Oxford, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford City Council, and Oxfordshire County Council

13 June 2024, Oxford Town Hall

Visiting Fellows

Ahmad Al Ajlan

Bielefeld University, Germany

Suzete Almeida de Bessa

Federal University of Goiás – UFG

Sediqa Bakhtiari

University of Tehran

Francesca Baldwin

University of Reading

Agata Blaszczyk

Polish University Abroad (PUNO), London

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McGill University

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Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany

Livia Lemos Falcão de Almeida

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM)

Carmen Logie

University of Toronto, United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment, & Health, Women's College Hospital

Jemima McKenna

University of Melbourne

Liam Moore

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Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, University of New South Wales

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Veronica Fynn Bruey

Athabasca University

Doctoral research students

Maria Al Qassim, Linacre College

Battleground for Belonging: Transregionalism and Identity Formation of Qeshmi and Hanjami Emiratis
Supervisors: Professor Dawn Chatty and Professor Walter Armbrust (Middle East Centre, St Antony's College)

Raphael Bradenbrink, Jesus College

Public-Private Collaboration in Global and Local Refugee Governance
Supervisor: Professor Alexander Betts

Frederike Brockhoven, Keble College

Refugee-led Grassroots Organising in Palestinian Refugee Camps
Supervisor: Professor Tom Scott-Smith

Imogen Dobie, Lincoln College

Rocking the Boat: Maritime Humanitarianism and Responses to Displacement at Sea, 1978-2022
Supervisor: Professor Tom Scott-Smith

Alessandra Enrico Headrington, St John's College
Reassessing asylum effectiveness: A study of Venezuelan mobility and policy responses in five South American countries
Supervisors: Professor Catherine Briddick and Dr Peter Walsh (COMPAS)

Isabelle Lemay, St Edmund Hall
Understanding 'Alan Kurdi' Effects: A Study of the Emergence and Decline of Movements of Openness Towards Refugees in the Global North
Supervisor: Professor Matthew J Gibney

Sacha Mouzin, St Antony's College
Shepherds in the Shadows: Lebanese Pastoralism in a Context of Eco-systemic Crisis
Supervisors: Professor Dawn Chatty and Professor Morgan Clarke (Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology)

Bisimwa Mulemangabo, Hertford College
The Politics of Sustainable Energy Transition in Refugee Settlements
Supervisor: Alexander Betts

Gemma Naveja Romero, St Antony's College,
Political Philosophy of Immigration
Supervisors: David Miller (Nuffield College) and Matthew J Gibney

Maggie Neil, Lady Margaret Hall
Exploring Europeaness in Sicily: Re-Assessing Hospitality Towards Immigrants and Newcomers
Supervisors: Professor Tom Scott-Smith and Professor Ruben Andersson (ODID)

Rosana O'Keeffe, St Anne's College
War and Material Reality: The Social Life of an Object Designed to Kill
Supervisor: Tom Scott-Smith

Abril Rios Rivera, Green Templeton College
Women's Empowerment and Labour Outcomes in the Context of Migration in Kenya
Supervisors: Professor Alexander Betts and Professor Carlos Vargas-Silva (COMPAS)

Julia Schweers, Wolfson College
Citizenship Abroad, Capital at Home: How Global Inequalities Affect the Value of Dual Citizenship
Supervisors: Professor Matthew J Gibney and Professor Tom Scott-Smith

Elisa Sisto, Merton College
Mountain Humanitarianism and Cross-Border Migration: Towards an Alpine Duty to Rescue?
Supervisor: Tom Scott-Smith

Diana Volpe, Wolfson College
Legitimising Migration Control: Italy-Libya Maritime Cooperation
Supervisors: Professor Matthew J Gibney and Professor Tom Scott-Smith

Emma Walker-Silverman, St Catherine's College
Positively Polarized: Can Social Media Push Ambivalent Locals to be More Supportive of Refugees in Turkey?
Supervisor: Professor Alexander Betts



The main hall at ODID
Credit: David Fisher / Fisher Studios



Market stalls in Pagirinya settlement. Credit: Yotam Gidron.



Stalls at the Oxford Sanctuary Fair, held at Oxford Town Hall in June 2024. Credit: RSC.

Income and expenditure

Statement 1. Refugee Studies Centre income and expenditure, 2023–24 (1 August–31 July)

Reserve balances	Actuals 2022–23 (£)	Actuals 2023–24 (£)
Opening reserves brought forward	262,903	280,819

Revenue ¹	Actuals 2022–23 (£)	Actuals 2023–24 (£)
Restricted project income		
Research grant revenue ²	1,243,065	901,569
Partner contributions	-	-
Forced Migration Review ³	181,567	244,889
Other revenue		
Overheads from research projects and awards	66,382	47,647
Other income (e.g. donations, publication royalties, institutional consultancies) ⁴	48,390	34,877
Workshops, conferences, short courses, and Visiting Fellowships (total revenue)	74,515	125,957
International Summer School in Forced Migration fee income	44,120	77,582
Transfer from Trust Fund Reserves to support administrative staff costs	98,990	104,856
Total revenue	1,757,030	1,537,376

Expenditure	Actuals 2022–23 (£)	Actuals 2023–24 (£)
Research grant expenditure (including research staff salaries) ⁵	1,237,083	908,684
Core administrative staff salary costs	131,949	109,354
Other core administrative expenses	2,347	3872
Workshops, conferences, short courses, public lectures, and Visiting Fellowships	60,732	92,139
International Summer School in Forced Migration	71,862	85,603
Outreach and dissemination		
Forced Migration Review (including FMR staff salaries)	181,567	244,889
Other publications, communications, and outreach activities	53,574	65,815
Total expenditure	1,739,115	1,510,357

Closing balances	Actuals 2022–23 (£)	Actuals 2023–24 (£)
Surplus/deficit after consolidation	17,916	27,019
Closing reserves carried forward	280,819	307,837

Statement 2. Performance of endowments

Endowments ⁶	Actuals 2022–23 (£)	Actuals 2023–24 (£)
Opening revenue account balance	449,484	429,734
Endowment income (dividends from shares and deposit pool interest)	299,833	315,110
Endowment expenditure (salary costs and management fees)	-319,582	-389,117
Closing revenue account balance	429,734	355,727
Capital account balance	3,098,923	3,098,923

¹ Total revenue – encompassing the Centre’s activities – amounts to £2.88m. This figure is inclusive of endowment income (£315,110) and the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies course fees (£1.055m).

² Research grant revenue is reported as earned only when project expenditure is incurred.

³ Forced Migration Review’s total receipts during 2023–24 were £122,778. This contributed to the production of four Issues during the year.

⁴ Other deferred donation balances were £303,097 as at 31 July 2024. These donations include funding restricted for MSc student scholarship bursaries and hardship funds.

⁵ The salaries of the Centre’s four permanent academic staff members are paid for through Oxford Department of International Development accounts, drawing upon both endowment revenue and MSc teaching income.

⁶ The Refugee Studies Centre is the beneficiary of several endowment funds, which are managed by the Oxford Department of International Development. As at 31 July 2024, revenue balances stood at £355,727. The related Capital Balances were £3,099m.

Staff and associates

ACADEMIC STAFF

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Leopold Muller Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs; Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, 2014–2017, and 2022–2023; Associate Head of the Social Sciences Division

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Professor Roger Zetter

Emeritus Professor and former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, 2006–2010

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